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Experts End Inspection of Missiles in Belgium

LD1008095588 Moscow TASS in English 0939 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Brussels August 10 TASS—Soviet experts staying here under the provisions of the Soviet-American Treaty on Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles, completed this morning inspection of U.S. missile facilities in Belgium, said the spokesman of the U.S. Armed Forces in Belgium.

In less than 24 hours Soviet inspectors made an inventory of cruise missiles at the facilities, as well as of their components, launchers and other equipment which is to be destroyed under the INF Treaty.

Inspection took place at the U.S. air base in Florennes and at the European centre for technical servicing of cruises in the city of Gosselies. Both cities are situated 50-60 kilometres south-west of Brussels.

In Florennes there were 20 U.S. cruises and 12 launchers, as of last June 1, and in the Gosselies centre—55 cruise missiles.

Today Soviet experts will return to Brussels after compiling a report on the inspections.

U.S. To Begin Pershing Destruction in Sep

LD0908090088 Moscow TASS in English 0819 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Washington August 9 TASS—On September 8 the U.S. Army plans to start operations on destruction of Pershing missile engines. These intermediate-range missiles are to be eliminated under the terms of the Soviet-American INF Treaty.

A memorandum for journalists circulated by the U.S. Defense Department on Monday points out that under appropriate weather conditions static firing of one or more Pershing missile engines will be made at the Longhorn Army Ammunition Plant near the city of Marshall (Texas state). The document points out further on that in the static firing the missile engine is encased in a special concrete-and-steel construction and then switched on. The engine, depending on the type, will run for 40-60 seconds till fuel burns out. Then its body will be destroyed and buried at a special plot of land within the ammunition plant's grounds.

The memorandum points out that the United States sent a notification to the Soviet Union, and under the provisions of the INF Treaty Soviet inspectors have the right to be present at the process of destruction.

Peru Launches 5-Nation Test Ban Initiative

PM1008133188 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 7 Aug 88 Second Edition p 4

[Report by unnamed correspondent: "Five-Country Initiative"]

[Text] Lima, 6 Aug—The Peruvian Government, in conjunction with the Governments of Indonesia, Mexico, Sri Lanka, and Yugoslavia, has put forward a new foreign policy initiative. The five countries proposed at the Geneva disarmament conference the convening of a special forum for the purpose of incorporating additional protocols in the text of the 1963 Moscow treaty banning nuclear weapon tests in the atmosphere, space, and underwater. The essential aim of the additional protocols is a complete ban on nuclear tests. In this connection, Peruvian Foreign Minister Luis Gonzalez Posada met on 5 August with the heads of the diplomatic missions of the Soviet Union, the United States, and Britain—the depositaries of the treaty.

As the Peruvian Foreign Ministry press release announced, the five-country joint initiative is pegged to the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Moscow treaty.

West Seen Blocking Progress on Arms Cuts

PM1008083388 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 Aug 88 Morning Edition p 5

[Vikentiy Matveyev "Political Observer's Opinion": "Questions of Substance"]

[Text] The logic of the development of affairs in the disarmament sphere has reached the point where the reduction of armed forces and conventional arms on the Continent of Europe is now the key problem in relations between West and East. It is the existence of military potentials on our continent—larger potentials than in any other vast region—that has maintained, throughout the postwar period, the threat that they may be utilized for a surprise attack. It is true that, throughout this same lengthy period, NATO has made attempts to artificially fan the fears and apprehensions rooted in the actual existence of vast arsenals confronting each other on the continent, especially in its heart.

But even without diligently fanned myths about a "threat from the East," the situation leaves a lot to be desired because, apart from the potential threat of a devastating conflict, which has become an almost permanent feature of the European situation, the actual buildup of conventional arms has involved and still involves a most burdensome material cost borne by all states involved in this confrontation.

The Gordian knot of these arms can and must be cut. The problem is now presented in strictly practical terms. The Warsaw Pact states have moved toward the NATO countries on a wide range of questions. For example, there is great approval in the West of the Statement on

Talks on the Reduction of Armed Forces and Conventional Arms in Europe adopted at the Warsaw meeting of the Political Consultative Committee.

There has also been solid response to M.S. Gorbachev's proposal to convene a second "Reykjavik," this time an all-European one—a meeting of all European countries to discuss a single question: how to break out of the present vicious circle and ensure a transition from words to deeds in the sphere of reducing conventional arms.

It has to be said that we are talking not simply about a political concept, but about very specific proposals by the Soviet Union and our allies. A general concept may not necessarily require a practical response from the West. But our specific and practical proposals do, of course, require such a response, especially as they give maximum consideration to the previously expressed views and positions of governments of the individual NATO countries and of the grouping as a whole.

But what is emerging? A curious picture. On the one flank, in the press and public circles and among some influential figures in the West, we have a lively debate whose participants, when discussing specific options for responding to the Warsaw Pact countries' proposals, agree in recognizing their indisputable value as a basis for talks. On the other flank we have a puzzling official government silence (with a few exceptions) about the essence of these proposals on the part of the NATO countries as a whole and some members of the grouping in particular. Neither yes nor no. Neither accepting nor rejecting the proposals.

Perhaps the governments in question need more time to ponder what they have heard from the Warsaw Pact countries? This would be natural. But the point is that much of what the governments of NATO countries themselves have persistently advocated underlies our proposals. The core of these proposals is the tenet of the reciprocal elimination of imbalances and asymmetries in individual types of conventional arms and the armed forces of both military-political alliances. This would be based on rigorous inspection and monitoring measures. You would think that the West would jump at this readiness on the part of the Warsaw Pact countries. But what is it doing instead? Once again we have vague statements that a concept of disarmament in this sphere in Europe is being elaborated, together with appropriate proposals....

It is not surprising that many commentators and observers in the West and even some influential politicians, primarily in the FRG, are beginning to show impatience. For how long can one mark time while broad latitude is being offered for talks and accords?

Incidentally, it must be said that this vagueness—to put it mildly—in the stance of NATO countries' governments is certainly not having the best possible effect on the state of affairs at the Vienna consultations, where a mandate for talks on reducing armed forces and conventional arms from the Atlantic to the Urals is being worked out. Only intervention by some delegations made it possible to prevent the meeting from breaking off its work after only 2 months. Now it has been agreed that its participants will meet again at the end of August, after a 3-week break.

Judging by Western press reports, so far it has been impossible to achieve consensus and agreement of viewpoints on the problem of reducing conventional arms within the NATO framework because there is a clash of different positions, and serious differences of opinion between the participants in this discussion have not been eliminated. This is a fact.

But it is not enough just to diagnose the condition. It is necessary to take a deeper look, to identify the nature of these differences of opinion. It is clear that there are influential forces within NATO that oppose any substantial reduction of the present high levels of armed forces and armaments of the two military-political groupings. Listening to some Western figures, you learn that they are prepared—at most—for a 5-percent reduction in the armed forces of European NATO countries. At the same time, they would like our country to make far more significant reductions, as a result of which the imbalances and asymmetries between NATO and the Warsaw Pact not only would not disappear but could actually become even greater, and in NATO's favor.

So far NATO has not formulated a stance even on the question of exchanging data on armed forces and conventional arms existing in Europe. Why? This question is being asked by journalists in the Western press. One of them, in an interview with M. Kampelman, head of the U.S. delegation at the Soviet-U.S. talks on nuclear and space weapons, published by DER SPIEGEL, remarked that "NATO members in Brussels can be heard expressing fears that an exchange could prove that the Soviet Union's superiority exists only on paper." M. Kampelman avoided making a comment.

There are quite a few questions of substance. It is impossible to evade them forever. Clarity and accuracy are needed not for the sake of abstract truths detached from reality, but in the name of ensuring a peaceful future for our continent, which still has one of the highest concentrations of weapons on the planet.

United States & Canada

Kondrashov Appraises Carlucci's Visit

PM1008105088 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Aug 88 Morning Edition p 5

[Stanislav Kondrashov article under the rubric "Political Observer's Opinion": "The Movable Limits of the Possible"]

[Text] Even the impossible is possible... Aleksandr Blok was not writing about the American defense secretary's visit to the Soviet Union, but his famous phrase was very appropriate to the situation last week, when we saw Mr Frank Carlucci in Moscow and around Moscow, and also in Sevastopol—in the midst of our military secrets.

His predecessor, Caspar Weinberger, who served for nearly 7 years in the Reagan administration, was until quite recently the very personification of the "enemy image" for us—who is more fitted to that role than the Pentagon chief?! And now here is a man with a different forename and surname, but still the Pentagon chief, sitting with our defense minister, not as enemies, but almost as partners, at any rate interlocutors, and looking at each other not through a gun port, but across the conference table. What about the "enemy image"?

And now they are showing him our latest tanks—in the Taman Division. And not only tanks! At Kubinka, at a military airfield near Moscow, Frank Carlucci spends a whole 15 minutes inspecting our new strategic bomber, which, it is reported from the West, the American spy satellites hunt for eagerly. We Soviet citizens, those of us for whom it is "not appropriate" (and that is the vast majority), had not heard a word about this bomber. For the Americans, it has long figured in the open press under the nickname "Blackjack."

And the American defense secretary sees it in the flesh, inspects its cockpit, and lavishes compliments on it. We want to pinch ourselves: Are we dreaming?

The impossible is possible, because secrets are being revealed—in the interests of our security and theirs. Frankly, we were already prepared for Carlucci's appearance alongside Dmitriy Timofeyevich Yazov and surrounded by our military men and their Pentagon officials in civilian clothes. In March the two ministers met for the first time on neutral ground—in Bern, Switzerland. In May-June they met at the Moscow summit meeting. Moreover, American inspectors are constantly flying over here to fulfill the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles. And ours go over there, and we are already used to the corresponding all too brief television pictures. Quite recently, in television reports from over there across the ocean, we also observed Marshal S.F. Akhromeyev, chief of the Soviet General Staff, on board their aircraft carrier "Theodore Roosevelt" and inspecting their B-1 strategic bomber (although the Americans were wary of showing their very latest novelty—the B-2). Akhromeyev was accompanied by his colleague from the other side—Admiral Crowe.

So what is to be done, under the new conditions, with the personified "enemy images" that have entered the mass consciousness at a level that is more emotional than rational and analytical? What is to be done? No, the image must not be dismantled. Because although Carlucci differs from Weinberger by his greater moderation, he did not become our darling by visiting us. The "enemy image" must be stripped of its demoniac aura, leaving, however, the very real image of an adversary partner and bringing it coolly into line with the changed circumstances of international life.

Soviet-U.S. dialogue has unexpectedly and very rapidly spread from the political and military-political spheres to the military sphere proper. For all the astonishing rapidity, one can understand mentally that this is a natural gain for common sense, which is expanding its area of operation.

If the leaders of different states with different systems are to serve their peoples, they must meet each other and seek compromise solutions. In the nuclear age these solutions are so bound up with the military sphere, weapons systems, and strategic doctrines that professional military men are always present at the leaders' meetings along with the diplomats, and they look over their shoulders and put forward their own options. Direct contacts between them, the military men, are the natural next step, not a substitute for the most important political steps, but an opportunity to progress more confidently and accurately in the right direction. The impossible is the tribute that today pays to yesterday. And now it has refused to pay—at the prompting of common sense.

Now I will try to move on from the emotional onlooker's view of Carlucci's visit to the working aspect, its content and results. Here the limits of the possible are not easily or quickly moved. Our concern about their naval superiority and the threatening potential of their aircraft carrier formations has not disappeared because of Carlucci's explanations across the conference table—that for a country facing two oceans a strong navy is traditionally necessary to maintain communications with allies and trade routes. Nor has their concern at our superiority in tanks and artillery on the confrontation line in Central Europe disappeared, although we are willing to take account of it, but the Americans and NATO have thus far refused to accept the Warsaw Pact's proposal to exchange figures for each military alliance for individual countries, so as to uncover the asymmetries and imbalances and eliminate them.

Yes, the top military officials now have a better idea of each other's positions, valuable human contact has been established, and the defense ministers, according to well-informed sources, now understand each other "at

the slightest hint." That could be of great significance, in particular, in avoiding dangerous military incidents that can arise because of ignorance and misunderstandings. But it is premature to speak of sufficient confidence between the two military structures, or of confidence between the two states.

After his visit to the United States Marshal Akhromeyev stated in an interview for our newspaper: "I cannot say we have removed all the problems. Unfortunately, the majority of them remain open... Our countries have many differences and contradictions. But the fact that the two sides are trying to understand each other's concerns is in itself useful. Moreover, military doctrines are not the kind of question you can discuss fully in a single visit. It is a question of fundamental problems, which, we hope, will be discussed systematically in the future."

Carlucci, it is clear from his own words, flew to the Soviet Union in order to see restructuring through the eyes of a U.S. defense secretary. Addressing the professorial and teaching personnel of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff Military Academy, he said:

"...I am interested first and foremost in how this process could affect Soviet military might—its potential and the forms of application of that potential.

"I am interested in learning:

"—whether glasnost will make it possible to lift the curtain of secrecy that surrounds the Soviet Armed Forces, as it has begun to influence other aspects of Soviet life;

"—whether restructuring will lead to a reorientation in the distribution of resources so that they are channeled not into military production, but toward civilian needs;

"—and in general, whether the 'new thinking' that is now spreading in the USSR will mean a restructuring of Soviet military doctrine and the structure of the armed forces, as well as long-term changes in how the Soviet Union structures its relations with other states."

In Carlucci's opinion, these questions are "open, in the main," that is, they remain, as it were, "not fully answered." And this, understandably, was the opinion he took away from the Soviet Union with him, although he assessed very positively his visit, the talks, and the Soviet side's cooperation.

Well, Carlucci formulates his questions frankly. But I do not think that surprised his listeners. We ourselves are used to frankness now. These or similar questions concerning the disappearing, but not yet disappeared, mania for secrecy, concerning the true extent of our military spending, are questions that we ourselves ask, aloud—diplomats, journalists, scientists, and readers in their letters to the editor. Our military men ask them as well. And answers are already being given, answers of an affirmative, constructive nature—by the actions of the Soviet leadership, including the military leadership. Carlucci's visit is one of the answers. It is another matter that full answers will be achieved through the development and deepening of the restructuring process, which embraces every aspect of state life, including the foreign policy and military aspects. The curtain of secrecy is already lifting, a reorientation in the distribution of resources is already beginning, practical steps are already being taken to demonstrate the defensive nature of the doctrine of the Soviet Armed Forces.

Politics is the art of the possible. And the pushing back of its limits. When politics is active and constructive, when it is based on openness and the new thinking, the examples multiply rapidly: What was impossible yesterday is possible today. What is impossible today may become possible tomorrow, and then some new level of openness may, perhaps, surprise Mr Carlucci's successor. After all, he leaves his post in 6 months' time, while the agreed plan for Soviet-American military contacts covers the period through 1990. Perhaps they will surprise him with a sophisticated strategic missile or a missile-carrying submarine, before, by mutual consent, sending them for scrap.

The limits of the possible will be pushed back, but on one condition—it must be on both sides. Provided that within the shrinking time limits of the Reagan administration and beyond those limits the constructiveness and fruitfulness of Soviet-American dialogue are deepened. Provided that the Americans—following our example—abandon their own infallibility complex, which rejects almost automatically all the Soviet concerns over the nature, deployment, and operations of the U.S. Armed Forces on the basis of the general assumption that a state founded on the concept of "democracy and freedom" cannot be aggressive. The arms race has for decades followed the upward spiral "action—reaction," and the first action, the original impetus (beginning with the atom bomb and ending with, for instance, invisible bombers) has emanated, as a rule, from the Americans. The dismantling of the race means a descending spiral of military confrontation and the implementation of a different principle: action—joint action—collaboration.

In drawing up a plan for contacts for 2 and ½ years ahead, the two countries' military men are looking to the future with a proper degree of responsibility.

Chernov on USIA Assisting U.S. Foreign Policy

PM1008150188 Moscow SOVETSKAYA KULTURA in Russian 2 Aug 88 p 7

[Article by A. Chernov: "USIA: What the 'Mirror' Reflected..."]

[Text] A powerful printing base, 214 strongholds in 129 countries, 9,000 people, and an annual budget of $1 billion—that is the USIA today. The agency has at its

disposal 131 libraries and 15 bilingual centers in 86 countries. The total circulation of the books and brochures it produces is 500,000 copies a year. It has under its jurisdiction 10 magazines and several bulletins (including the magazine AMERIKA in Russian and the journal "PROBLEMS OF COMMUNISM in English, French, German, Spanish, and Portuguese). Every year it organizes 12-13 major exhibitions and produces about 200 programs and films recorded on video.

Created 1 August 1953, the USIA has always considered its main aim to be assisting U.S. foreign policy by influencing public opinion abroad and propagandizing the American way of life. The "large-scale" aims facing the USIA demanded corresponding financial support. And it must be said that in this respect the agency leaders have never had any complaints against any administration, irrespective of its party allegiance. At all stages of its activity the USIA has adhered strictly, without deviating by one iota, to the strategic line steered by the White House.

The emergence of this government organization, created 35 years ago in accordance with the plan of the country's President at the time, D. Eisenhower, was no accident. Its aims and forms and methods of work fully accorded with the spirit of the "cold war," which had reached its apogee at that time. The "Voice of America," whose history goes back to 1947, was immediately included in the agency's jurisdiction. The practice of using various "voices," tested at the dawn of the USIA's establishment, has remained part of the agency's armory all this time.

The USIA has to its credit the creation of "Radio Afghanistan," "Radio Marti," which broadcasts many hours of programs to Cuba, and other regional radio centers. The main function of these subdivisions remains the purposeful imposing of the U.S. view of the interpretation of events in the world. If you consider that radio is not only the most efficient but also the most flexible propaganda weapon making it possible to make direct on the spot reports at any time of day and also implying the possibility of receiving programs while stationary and while on the move, at work and at rest, then it becomes clear that the USIA could in no way do without this type of "psychological weapon" in its practice.

The rapid development of the scientific and technical revolution has faced the USIA with the need to considerably revise its views of the role of radio broadcasting in achieving its aims. Not so long ago a structural and technical reorganization was carried out in the agency. The United States' main propaganda department received the most modern equipment, including computers and display and video equipment. But the technical refurbishment did not entail an ideological reorientation. The use of the most sophisticated mass media is still aimed at defending America's "vitally important" interests.

But it would be too tendentious to try to describe the USIA's entire activity solely on the basis of the existence of propaganda centers like "Radio Afghanistan" and "Radio Marti." Recently, under the influence of the changes taking place in the world, the USIA has markedly reoriented its activity. The agency has begun to pay considerably more attention to direct contacts with the foreign public, with scientists and masters of literature and the arts.

A characteristic feature of the USIA's activity under the Reagan administration is the confident emphasis on work with the young people of other countries. In the past 3 years alone about 1 million foreign students have gone to U.S. colleges and universities with the agency's assistance. As the report of the USIA consultative commission stresses, "many future political leaders, industrialists, and scientists... are now in the United States." Thus, not without the agency's assistance, the United States acquires the opportunity to markedly influence the foreign and domestic policy of a number of capitalist and developing countries, changing it to suit its own interests.

The improvement which has appeared recently in relations between the USSR and the United States has had a marked effect on the agency's entire foreign policy activity. A special milestone in the USIA's biography was its active participation in the organization of the 1985 Geneva summit. "The meeting between President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev in Geneva," the report of the agency's consultative commission says, "was the focus of the most all-embracing efforts in the field of public diplomacy that the USIA has ever undertaken."

The accords reached in Geneva found their practical reflection in the USIA's draft budgets for 1987 and in particular for 1988. One of the sections of the programs outlined for implementation is headed "Implementation of Cultural Agreements Between the United States and the USSR." Within the framework of these agreements it is proposed, over the course of 3 years, to mount the "Information Technology in U.S. Life" exhibition in 10 USSR cities. The contacts envisaged by bilateral ties are organized along the following lines: the exchange of teachers and students, language studies, joint projects in the field of the use of computer technology in primary and secondary schools, schoolchildren's exchanges, sports exchanges, and study in the sphere of cancer treatment.

Nonetheless, the turn of the main U.S. propaganda department toward the problems dictated by and asserted in world politics by the new thinking give no grounds for believing that the USIA has "mended its ways." Thus, for instance, last Thursday the U.S. Senate approved by a majority the appropriation of $7.5 million for the creation of the "Marti TV" station designed to broadcast extensively to Cuba. It will follow the same

aims as the subversive "Radio Marti" station, which was organized in accordance with the law on radio broadcasting to Cuba signed by Reagan in 1983.

The USIA has thus throughout its history invariably been the "mirror" of the White House's foreign policy course, reflecting precisely its slightest fluctuations.

'Wary' View of U.S. Gulf Role After Cease-Fire

LD1008160388 Moscow TASS in English 1538 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow August 10 TASS—TASS political news analyst Yuriy Kornilov writes:

International public, prominent politicians and statesmen of different countries welcome the statement by the United Nations secretary-general in which he declared August 20 to be the day of the complete ceasefire along the entire length of the Iran-Iraq front. The world press extensively quotes the statement of Perez de Cuellar which justly stresses that the success of his mission is a triumph of the collective wisdom of the United Nations, the result of the goodwill displayed by the parties to the conflict as well as by the Security Council.

In fact, the ending of the Iran-Iraq conflict is an important and profoundly positive fact which, without a doubt, will have a beneficial effect on the situation in the region and in the world at large. However, analysing the response to this development in different countries of the world, one cannot help detecting certain aspects which make one wary.

It is common knowledge that certain circles in the United States have used the conflict as a pretext for fanning tensions and for beefing up the U.S. military and strategic positions in the region. Washington went out of its way to "ostracize" and to "punish" Iran. By amassing in the Persian Gulf a large naval task force (of 27 vessels according to the latest reports), the United States, in the opinion of observers, has long abandoned—and by a large margin at that—the originally declared objective, that of ensuring the freedom of navigation and of protecting Kuwaiti tankers flying the American flag. The naval forces of the USA and of its NATO allies became a veritable source of tension in the Gulf. And on July 3 Washington's militarist and hegemonist ambitions claimed almost 300 innocent lives—those of the passengers of the Iranian airliner on a regular flight from the Iranian port of Bandar-e 'Abbas to Dubayy (the United Arab Emirates).

It is taken as a matter of course that the freedom and safety of navigation in the Gulf must be ensured, but who has authorized a power to arbitrarily assume, bypassing the United Nations, the role of the "guard" and "protector" of a whole region? This can and must be done only on a collective basis—through the efforts of the world community. One way to solve the problem might be to set up a U.N. naval force.

However, Washington stubbornly rejected the reasonable elements in the approach which meets the interests of peace. And today, when the bloodshed is practically over, the selfsame Washington, welcoming in word the settlement of the conflict, in deed continues largely the same course, showing no intention to reduce its military presence in the region. For what else can one make out of the recent statements by a State Department spokesman that the United States will continue to be the "strong player" in the Persian Gulf? And here are two more statements made in the same vein in Washington yesterday. Marlin Fitzwater, the White House spokesman, said that the USA is not going to reduce its naval force in the Gulf in the near future. The Pentagon chief Frank Carlucci said that the USA would never withdraw all its naval force from the Gulf.

How is one to treat such utterances? For today, it would seem, it is especially clear that the interests of international security are not met by sabre-rattling or staking on force. They are met by the states-members of the international community seeking—with the active participation and under the aegis of the United Nations—and finding ways for a peaceful settlement of conflict situations. As one can see, adherents of "power politics" are stubbornly reluctant to part with their dangerous concepts, and this cannot but alarm the international community.

U.S. Defense Expert on Soviet Interests in Gulf

PM1008113288 Moscow MOSCOW NEWS in English No 31, 31 Jul 88 p 5

[Interview with Admiral Eugene Carroll, deputy director of the Center for Defense Information, by Edgar Cheporov in New York: "Changing Points of Reference"; date not given—first paragraph is MOSCOW NEWS introduction]

[Text] New York—Many people in the USA are calling the death of the passengers in the Iranian plane shot down by a missile from the US cruiser Vincennes a "tragic mistake". Whose mistake? Both the cruiser's and the airliner's. But the claims laid against the Iranians are tougher—what were they flying in the military zone for? More and more one hears objective admissions—the shooting down of the plane is the result of the explosive situation which formed in the Persian Gulf with Washington's help. Hence the attempt to rethink its dangerous policy and provide new realistic points of reference for it. The Center for Defense Information, a well-known research organization in the USA, was outlining such point long before the latest events occurred. I had a talk with Admiral Eugene I. Carroll, deputy director of the centre.

MN: The Iranians, supposedly, consciously did everything to have the plane shot down. Such is one of the more incredible versions of the incident, which happened to appear in "THE WASHINGTON POST"—that it was all an Iranian conspiracy. The plane had been "readied" for the US strike in the "interests of martyrdom" and the corresponding speculation on it...

E.C.: There isn't a grain of truth in that allegation. The Iranians couldn't have done it even if they'd wanted to. The US ships Vincennes and Montgomery, returning from Kuwaiti shores, got into a skirmish with an Iranian torpedo craft. The plane was preparing for takeoff precisely at that moment. Those who let it take off could not have known anything about the clash in the Gulf. It was a routine flight departing on schedule. The Iranians had no chance to foresee the course of agents.

The Vincennes opened fire on the plane, but as we now know, the captain didn't have precise information as to what was going on. In particular, the radar wasn't giving accurate data. Such things, unfortunately, do happen during military actions.

Our ships are in the midst of a fierce conflict, and may be pulled into it at any moment. Ultimately this will result in American losses as well.

MN: Are such sacrifices justified?

E.C.: If our policy turns against us, we must refuse to continue it. The USSR sent its troops to Afghanistan, but several years later is withdrawing them. Isn't that an example for us?

The USA should find new approaches to solving the problems in the Persian Gulf. One of them could be cooperation with the USSR in this region. I'm sure that Moscow and Washington must be interested in ending the Iran-Iraq war. Both the USA and the USSR can only benefit.

MN: Supporting you idea, I'll just remind you that the joint statement signed by US and Soviet leaders after the Moscow summit spoke of the need for helping participants in regional conflicts find a peaceful solution. How is it possible to achieve this in the Persian Gulf?

E.C.: First of all, to stop counting on military force. Washington declared that US military presence would make the situation in the region safe and would safeguard the transport of oil. But the opposite has happened. We ended up having to pay for the tension and the oil not only with dollars, but also with human lives. The USSR, the USA and our Western partners are in a position to help stop the Iran- Iraq war. All states, including the USSR and the USA, should stop selling weapons to Iran and Iraq.

MN: The US press reported that the official spokesmen for the White House and the State Department said that a reconsideration of US policy in the Persian Gulf will depend on whether the USSR can prove that it doesn't pose a threat to this region. Are there any grounds for such reasoning?

E.C.: There are no such grounds. I was always angry at the administration's allegation of a "Soviet threat" to the Persian Gulf. Yes, the USSR does have warships in different regions, including the Persian Gulf. But no matter how much you try, you won't be able to prove that the USSR is carrying out a policy of military intervention or is engaged in any dangerous activities there. It is impossible to compare the position of the USA, which sent a huge fleet to the Gulf and aspires to control the situation there, to that of the USSR, which acts primarily as an observer.

I react most sorrowfully to the talk of politicians who say that the Persian Gulf is but a zone of USSR-US rivalry. As I see it, it should be a zone of cooperation. We shouldn't forget, either, that the USSR is only 500 miles from the Gulf, while the USA is some 10,000 miles away. The USSR's interests in the region are completely justified and legitimate.

U.S. 'Main Culprit' in Central American Conflict

LD1008185188 Moscow TASS in English 1758 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow August 10 TASS—Follows commentary by Nikolay Chigir, a TASS political news analyst:

As is seen from the press reports, one of the main objectives of the Latin American tour by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz is to ensure support for the aggressive policy of the USA vis-a-vis Nicaragua by its neighbours. The newsmen covering the tour by the U.S. secretary of state point out that the malicious attacks against the Sandinist Government made by him in his speeches in San Jose and Tegucigalpa, his attempts at presenting in a distorted light Nicaragua's home and foreign policy are timed to the new campaign being whipped up by the Washington administration for continuing military aid to the contra gangs. Official Washington's intention to drag through the Congress a decision on a resumption of arms supplies to CIA's mercenaries, which is zealously advocated by Shultz, is proof that the USA's policy is aimed at torpedoing the Guatemala agreement, at creating conditions for continuing the "undeclared war" against Nicaragua.

While the world community strongly insists on a peaceful political settlement of all the regional conflicts, the USA, as we see, leads things to a further kindling of the Central American conflict. In so doing the Washington administration is trying to camouflage its actions by means of anti-Nicaraguan and anti-Soviet insinuations. One cannot help noting the statement by Shultz designed to create the impression that responsible for the tensions in Central America is the Soviet Union, which is allegedly reluctant to end the supplies of military equipment to the Sandinist Government. During his stay in Costa Rica the U.S. secretary of state claimed that the USSR has not taken a constructive stand on the situation in Central America. He was, as the saying goes, trying to lay the blame at the wrong door.

It is apt to recall that the Soviet Union has taken and continues holding an absolutely explicit and unambiguous stand both on the Central American and the other regional conflicts. It strongly opposes any attempts at settling conflict situations by force or arms in the belief that the sole correct approach to such conflicts consists in the search for peaceful political solutions. In the opinion of Soviet leadership, an international legal situation should be created around some or other seat of conflict that would exclude the possibility of fuel being poured into it from the outside, guarantee the nonproliferation of that seat to other countries and, at last, ensure for that country's people the possibility of sociopolitical choice without foreign interference.

That is precisely why the Soviet leadership has proposed that the USA join in ending arms supplies to Central American nations and confine itself to only the supply of police weapons. But, apparently, the Washington administration is unhappy about that proposal. It does not suit Washington's book judging by pronouncements by Washington official representatives, because its adoption would make the USA end military support not only for the contras but also for such undemocratic regimes as those of Salvador and Honduras.

It is not the USSR but the USA which is the main culprit of the dangerous conflict in Central America. It is not Moscow, but Washington, which is also borne out by the current tour by the U.S. secretary of state, which is bent on preventing a just political settlement in Central America. As far as the Soviet Union is concerned, it is doing all the necessary steps to help the countries involved in the Central American conflict to find solutions contributing towards strengthening the independence, freedom and security of the countries of the region.

U.S.-USSR Political Seminar Ends in Irkutsk

LD1008190488 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1430 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] A seminar of U.S. and Soviet political officials has ended in Irkutsk Oblast today. Assessing the results of the work, Paula Dobrianski, deputy assistant of the U.S. secretary of state for human rights and humanitarian affairs, noted that the week of the Irkutsk seminar was a fruitful exchange of views on many international issues of concern, including Soviet-U.S. relations, disarmament, and development of democracy in the Soviet Union and the United States. The seminar participants will go to Moscow tomorrow and then to Kiev.

Soviet-U.S. Colorado Symposium on Restructuring

PM1008110188 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 6 Aug 88 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report under the rubric "A Look at Restructuring": "Breaking Down Wall of Distrust"]

[Text] Telluride (Colorado), 5 Aug—"Restructuring in the USSR, in the United States, and in Soviet-U.S. relations." That is the subject of the Soviet-U.S. dialogue which has begun here. Taking part are U.S. scholars, political scientists, businessmen, and politicians. The Soviet delegation includes responsible workers of the CPSU Central Committee and eminent representatives of Soviet science and the creative intelligentsia. The meeting began with a description by the USSR guests of the 19th All-Union CPSU Conference and the CPSU Central Committee July Plenum, of the historical role of these events in the country's life, and of the dimensions and unusual complexity of the renewal process

The members of the Soviet delegation answered numerous questions from the U.S. participants in the meeting, who displayed unfeigned interest in the transformations in the economy, in the reform of the political system, and in other aspects of the restructuring process in the USSR. Some of the Americans admitted that, on reading U.S. press reports, they had had a different idea of the changes in the USSR and simply did not know about a lot. "I was struck by the frankness and enthusiasm with which the Soviet representatives have been conducting the conversation. It is meetings like this which help our peoples to understand each other better, to break down the wall of distrust, to create a favorable atmosphere for improving Soviet-U.S. relations," said Jim Harrison, director of the Soviet-U.S. exchange program at the Esalen Institute.

China

Regulation of Profiteering in PRC Observed

LD1008221788 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Vladimir Kulikov report from Beijing entitled: "Reforms and Banquet"]

[Text] Calls for a modest way of life, for the saving of state resources, and for the rejection of excesses in daily life are constant topics of the publications of Chinese press. But this is only a part of the problems which are of concern to the public of the country today. The fact is that the rapid development of the commodity economy in China; the emergence of prosperity among certain categories of people; and, above all, wide opportunities to get rich quick, as they say here, and not always in a legal way, using the possibilities of the market, have increased the danger of a rise of a big number of unhealthy phenomena in society.

In addition to excesses in daily life, profiteering, bribery, and embezzlement of state property are regarded by the Chinese press as such phenomena. The party has declared a merciless struggle against these phenomena, in the first place, with concern for the purity of its own ranks, setting an example of modesty on the largest possible scale. The struggle is under way, as they say here, for the transparency [prozrachnost] of the apparatus of the state and party. The word transparency, in my opinion, very accurately fits this situation. A person,

who is entrusted with many things, must be absolutely pure and be clearly visible to those around him. One must, as they say, be able to see right through him.

A whole series of resolutions adopted by the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee and the State Council forbids the officials of the party and the government organs to carry on commercial activity, to engage in trade, and business; they must give an account of all their income.

A number of decisions regulate many more other questions connected with creating an atmosphere of transparency. Among those are the questions of the selection and appointment of cadres and sending some individuals and delegations abroad. Managers of all ranks are forbidden from accepting presents, organizing sumptuous receptions and farewell parties, and setting up tables with strong drink during their trips to fields and the villages where they were born. Many other events connected with the receiving of foreign guests are also regulated. This, it is considered in the country, releases working hands, reducing service personnel, leads to substantial savings of state resources, and serves as a good example for others in the implementation of the policy of modesty and thrift.

I am under the impression that this is not a question of a regular campaign as it often happened in the past, but a question of a fundamental course. Here in front of me is another resolution adopted, literally, yesterday. The holding of the press conferences and jubilee celebrations in Beijing, which local governments and different departments like to organize quite often, are put under the strict control of the State Council.

Article Assesses 'Impressive' Reforms

PM1008113488 Moscow MOSCOW NEWS in English No 31, 31 Jul 88 p 6

[Anatoliy Druzenko and Leonid Kapelyushnyy article: "The Riddle of 'Gaige'"]

[Text] L.K.: To start a story about China with a description of the Great Wall is impermissible. Generations of reporters have written so much about the Wall, it would be hard to find a single brick that hadn't been thoroughly described. It looks as if Chinese bazaars will soon become another "forbidden" subject. All our papers are writing with tremendous enthusiasm about Chinese private trade.

A.D.: Because it really is impressive. After a long flight, protocol meetings, traditional tea drinking and talks, we were literally falling off our feet but we forgot our exhaustion as soon as we saw the bazaar on Wangfuging Street in Beijing. In the culinary section, everything was boiling, frying and cooking, and people caught at our sleeves inviting us to take a bite. It was nearly 10 p.m.

L.K.: We thought—why isn't there something like this on Gorkiy Street in Moscow? Or on Kreshchatik in Kiev? Or on Nevskiy in Leningrad?

A.D.: Precisely. No matter how much talk there is about the various features in building socialism in their country and in ours, everybody who goes to China cannot help but compare. They say "gaige" which means "reform", and we say "perestroyka". The words are different, but the meaning is in many ways the same. The goal is the same—to change people's life for the better. That's why we look with special interest at their "gaige"—and ask why they have already managed something and we haven't. The bazaars leap to our eyes for the simple—and maybe not so simple—reason that in China they do exist and in our country they don't.

L.K.: If we are going to compare, then we should consider the time periods. In China they count the time of changes from the famous 3rd Plenary Meeting of the CPC Central Committee of the 11th convocation, held in December 1978. And we count our perestroyka from the April 1985 Plenary Meeting of the CPSU Central Committee. The Chinese reform is in its tenth year and our perestroyka is in its fourth.

A.D.: But we mustn't conclude that where the reform is longer there are more results. Everything is much more complex.

L.K.: Nevertheless, the Chinese reform has been around longer and therefore has accomplished more. This is especially true in the economy. Here the Chinese are acting very resolutely—they are acting in a revolutionary way! They are changing not "details" of the economic mechanism but the principles of its operation. The distinguishing feature of Chinese perestroyka is that they made do without a "talking period".

A.D.: But one shouldn't diminish the role of words either. Everything depends on what these words are and what they mean. The changes in China started from words, too. Or, to be more precise, from fundamental theoretical conclusions. Nine years ago they said in China: "We are only at the beginning of socialist construction. The recent 12th CPC Congress confirmed this conclusion: The socialist society in our country is still in the first stage of development. We should not overjump it but travel from this reality." They look like simple words, but there's enormous theoretical and practical sense in them. They have freed their own hands this way! They got rid of the "majesty complex". We're just begining, which means that there is no need to convince people of colossal achievements—which, when they are checked, prove to be minimal—of the advantages over others, of the goodness of the chosen road, etc. We're just beginning, therefore, it is possible not to be subjected to dogmas, and so get away, at long last, from the "dosed"

approach to events—this is allowed and that is forbidden. We're just beginning, which means that it is impossible without experiments, failures, errors, turns and retreats.

L.K.: After making the conclusion about the "first stage", a new economic model was introduced in China: the socialist planned-commodity economy based on the objective existence of various forms of property.

A.D.: Why did the Chinese express such resolution? The leftist turns of the "big jump" period and the black years of the "Cultural Revolution" did the country so much harm that people suddenly realized: Things cannot go on like this. Tormented by the comparison (events in their country vs. events in ours), I wondered is it really necessary to starve, to bring the economy to the verge of catastrophe, in order to see the light?

L.K.: The first step of Chinese perestroyka was to allow peasants to lease the land.

A.D.: Just imagine if plots of land in our country were leased to tens of millions of rural workers! Maybe this would finally end the discussion which everyone is fed up with—"to be or not to be...a master on the land?"

L.K.: I had that in mind when I said that the Chinese skipped the "talking period". They started leasing land right away. It was still a struggle. Local officials tried to block the family contract. What did the peasants do? They clipped the decisions of party and state organs from newspapers and glued them onto baskets and yokes, thus "exercising their will" over the officials. When is it possible to do this? When there is a real decision—"we lease land"—and not simply words about "broad opportunities for the different forms of contracts". The peasants in China got 90 per cent of the arable land. And what happened? Gross production of grain crops increased from 300 million to 400 million tons a year! For the first time in its 2000-year history, China overstepped the seemingly magic limit of 300 kg of grain per capita per year and raised it to 400 kg.

A.D.: This is the main feature of their reform in its present stage: the material result, which the people can "feel". Each one felt the changes himself. Because he started to live better. That's all.

L.K.: We mustn't assume that all Chinese live well now and have no problems. Their speed is impressive and their renewals are radical, but people there still live a poor life.

A.D.: It all depends on what and whom you compare. With the standard of living in Sweden, the USA or the USSR—that's one thing. With how the same Chinese lived ten years ago—that's something different. Many people ask how do the cities, the streets, the people and their clothes look. The Chinese today look quite different. They wear military-type jackets with buttoned-up collars. The jackets are made from expensive wool or the simplest cotton—but next to them you see a European suit or a bright dress (red is in fashion now) or a denim jacket. In China people don't seem to greet each other according to how a person is dressed. People wear what they have and what they can, without an inferiority complex.

L.K.: Just as they didn't feel it when, at the beginning of the reform, they said self-critically what place their country occupies in the world—for labour productivity, gross national output, technology and technological processes. Businesslike realism is the "religion" of Chinese politicians, economists and managers. They are now more modest and careful in assessing what they have done.

A.D.: I was even a bit surprised at the frankness with which the leading economists, enterprise managers, sociologists and journalists spoke to us about inflation, disproportionate demand and supply, wages growing faster than labour productivity, inertia in the administration apparatus, the different interests of the centre and the territories, and growth rates being lower than at the reform's start.

L.K.: They see the answer not in a retreat from commodity-money or market relations, but in strengthening them. What does Chinese perestroyka have that ours doesn't? A market. Naturally, I don't mean street bazaars.

A.D.: A system of markets—a market of means of production, a market of labour, a market of finances, a market of real estate, a market of technological processes, etc.

L.K.: And the colossal turn in people's thinking! Liu Xiude, vice-director of a provincial commission on the reform, said in Wuhan: "Now no one goes to the party committee or to the government for materials, machine tools or manpower. Everybody knows that this can be bought at the market."

A.D.: Remember Chongquing, the centre for trading means of production, and the talk we had with deputy chief Yan Daohong. The buyers and sellers there represent enterprises. They trade in electric goods, textiles, agricultural raw materials and spare parts. They trade using stable state prices, contract prices, "floating" prices (which establish the high and the low price) and free market prices. Tens of thousands of such centres now operate in China! And we are just getting to supply through wholesale trade, talking a lot about this and doing practically nothing. Under the former system China distributed centrally over 250 types of resources. Now—some 20. Only the deficit resources—metal, coal, wood and fuel—are distributed centrally. But the centres monopoly is getting weaker here, too.

L.K.: It is also weakening in planning. Directive plans are now distributed to only 30 per cent of industrial production.

A.D.: Still the first aim of all accomplishments in man. The reform did the main thing—it freed the Chinese in labour and everyone knows how industrious they are. When we visited the fields at dawn the peasants were already working. When we came back at dusk—the peasants were still working. They sweat—pumping manually in rice paddies and leading a wooden plough behind a buffalo. Even though there are a lot of problems in human relations, too. The director of a washing machine-making plant in Chongquing told us that we had full responsibility and quite a lot of rights, but he may not fire a worker. The old rule—a man comes to an enterprise for all of his life—is still a law.

L.K.: "What do you do if a worker is lazy?" we asked him. He didn't understand the question—"What do you mean if he's lazy?"

A.D.: In spite of this, their most serious problem is, as they say, to break the tin plate—to overcome the vicious cycle of wage levelling. They are solving the problem with economic stimuli rather than directives. In 1978 the Chinese had 2 billion 100 million yuans in their savings banks. Today—nearly 310 billion.

A.D. [as published]: Meetings, talks, visiting plants—our heads reeled from facts and figures. But now, after our return, it is what we saw and felt roaming the bazaars and cities at night, and in chance meetings and conversations that help us understand the business side of our trip.

L.K.: How can we forget the samovar in Chongquing! When I tell my friends about the boiling pot of hot sauce on a kerosene stove, and the table laden with plates of raw, thinly sliced pieces of meat, liver, fish and vegetables, they are speechless. Yes, the simple folk cannot afford these things—yes, it was a table for honorable guests, and still it was not just exotics but a part of national culture, of the people's life. Or bicycles, of which there are six million in Beijing alone. Or the great thirst to know things—no sooner do you stop in the street than a crowd forms around you—everybody wants to know everything.

A.D.: Yes, our neighbours over the Great Wall are sincerely friendly. They suffered as we did during the time of alienation. And today our changes are also enormously exciting to them. Everywhere people asked us about the emancipation of the individual, about new films and books, about the liberation from Stalinism, about democratization and glasnost.

L.K.: We were sitting in far-off Shashi, talking about the reform, when suddenly we heard "Nina Andreyeva".

A.D.: They're interested. They're mainly interested in the new events in the superstructure. And not for any lack of changes on their side. But they have their own fruition period for the ripening of democratization. At the Xian Film Studios we were told about the new film "Marshal Pen Dehuei"—the first attempt to reconsider the role of Mao Zedong in Chinese history. All the people we spoke with (except one man) recollected the "Cultural Revolution" with pain in their voices. Only that one man said that the period would be worthily appraised by descendants.

L.K.: Does that mean that perestroyka is more active in the economy than in the superstructure? And what about us?

A.D.: Why so categorically? The changes in the superstructure can be stepped up or given time to mature. I think the Chinese took the second way. They are building a new economoy. It is the foundation. Beginning with it, a builder never fails to reach the roof. Now they are to reform the political system.

L.K.: In China, I often caught myself thinking how much we have in common. We talked with our companions traveling by diesel ship down the Yangtze. A great many people squeezed into our stateroom. There wasn't place for an apple to fall, as we say. Whoever couldn't find a place below climbed up into a top bunk. The conversation turned to the future of Soviet-Chinese relations. A man in one of the top bunks interjected: "We're for good relations. So are you. If it depended only on us, we'd immediately sign all the necessary treaties."

USSR To Help China in Metallurgical Industry

OW1008061788 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 0100 GMT 7 Aug 88

[Yergayev report]

[Text] Currently, China's ferrous metallurgical workers have a huge task to perform—to raise China's steel output to 100 million metric tons by the year 2000 from the 1987 output of 50 million metric tons. The organizations concerned in China plan to rely to a certain extent on the Soviet Union's assistance to accomplish the task. In accordance with a Soviet-Chinese agreement signed on 10 July 1985, the Soviet Union will help China build 7 new and rebuild 17 existing metallurgical enterprises. Those to be rebuilt include the Anshan Iron and Steel Complex, the Baotou Iron and Steel Complex, and the Wuhan Iron and Steel Complex.

We asked Comrade (Piko), manager of the Heavy Machinery Export Company under the Soviet Ministry [as heard] of Foreign Economic Relations, to discuss the cooperation between the Soviet Union and China in the metallurgical field.

[Begin (Piko) recording in Russian fading into Mandarin translation] Recently, cooperation between the Soviet Union and China in the metallurgical field has been constantly expanded. Two contracts, amounting to a total of R10 million, were signed in Beijing in July this year. In accordance with the first contract, the Soviet Union will supply the Jilin Ferrous-Alloy Plant certain equipment, including a 25,000-kilowatt ferrous-alloy furnace. The second contract provides that the Soviet Union will design and supply [word indistinct] equipment to the Anshan Iron and Steel Complex. In 1987, we signed a contract for rebuilding a blast furnace at the Wuhan Iron and Steel Complex, redesigning the No 2 blast furnace at the Anshan Iron and Steel Complex, and building [word indistinct]. In September this year, we shall continue talks on a contract for projects in the Baotou Iron and Steel Complex. It is estimated that the contract will be around R70 or 80 million in value. [end recording]

Our station reporter asked about the prospects for Soviet-Chinese cooperation in the ferrous metallurgical industry.

[Begin (Piko) recording in Russian, fading into Mandarin translation] Prospects are very good. The Soviet Union will take part in building metallurgical enterprises in several provinces of China. For instance, a steel plant, with designed annual output of 1 million metric tons, is planned for Hubei Province. We have already held talks with China over this project, and the talks will resume in September. [end recording]

The reporter asked about progress in fulfilling existing contracts.

[Begin (Piko) recording in Russian, fading into Mandarin translation] Progress is smooth. In accordance with the contract, we have already shipped equipment to the Wuhan Iron and Steel Complex for use in the blast furnace. We plan to completely fulfill the contract before the end of this year. [end recording]

Friendship Delegation Arrives in Moscow

OW0908071188 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 0100 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] At the invitation of the Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries and the Soviet-Chinese Friendship Society, the professional tourist group of activists of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship With Foreign Countries and the China-USSR Friendship Association arrived in Moscow on 8 August.

Southeast Asia & Pacific

Appointment of New Thai Prime Minister Reported

PM1008105188 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 6 Aug 88 Second Edition p 5

[Own correspondent V. Skvortsov dispatch: "Thailand's New Prime Minister"]

[Text] Bangkok, 5 Aug—At the proposal of the deputies of the seven parties of the recently elected Thai National Assembly House of Representatives, Ukrig Mongkolnavin, president of parliament, last Thursday submitted to the head of state, King Phumiphon Adunyadet, the nomination for the new prime minister for approval. He is Chatchai Chunhawan, leader of "Chart Thai"—the Thai Nation Party. The full composition of the new cabinet will become known no later than Wednesday, 10 August.

Chatchai Chunhawan is the first new Thai prime minister in 12 years to come from the ranks of elected deputies. His predecessor, Prem Tinsulanon, who was not a member of parliament, was invited to take up the post by a coalition of several parties, which is allowed by the Constitution. P. Tinsulanon will provisionally head the country's administration for a few more days while Chatchai Chunhawan forms a cabinet. The delay is also connected with considerations of protocol—British Prime Minister M. Thatcher has arrived in Thailand on an official visit.

Addressing journalists, Chatchai Chunhawan said that the main priority for his cabinet's domestic policy will remain concern for further economic development, especially the improvement of the living standard of the poor strata of the rural population and the raising of the minimum wage in the industrial sector. Speaking of the foreign policy course, the new prime minister expressed himself in favor of expanding economic ties with the neighboring socialist countries—Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia—noting that the time has come to see in this avenue "not a battlefield but possible economic markets." In the prime minister's opinion, the problem of Cambodia should be resolved as rapidly as possible, and there is every sign that a relevant agreement will soon be reached.

Settlement of Cambodian Problem Viewed

LD1008164688 Moscow TASS in English 1456 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow August 10 TASS—By a TASS diplomatic correspondent:

Only a frank and constructive dialogue between all interested parties can lead to establishment of goodneighbourly relations between the Indochinese and ASEAN countries and to elimination of hotbeds of tension in Southeast Asia. This point of view of participants in the international conference "for national reconciliation in Kampuchea, dialogue and cooperation in Southeast Asia" which ended in Phnom Penh the other day, is shared by the Soviet Union. The conference was sponsored by the Afro-Asia Peoples' Solidarity Organization.

The unofficial meeting between Hun Sen, chairman of the Kampuchean Council of Ministers, and the leaders of the three opposition Khmer groups, which took place in Bogor (Indonesia) in July and which was joined at the second stage by representatives of Vietnam, Laos and

ASEAN countries, opened new vistas for acceleration of a political settlement of the Kampuchean problem on the basis of national reconciliation.

Participants in the Phnom Penh conference backed new 7-point proposals put forth in Bogor by Hun Sen, chairman of the Kampuchean Council of Ministers. They open the way for tackling the main outstanding issues and take into acount the positions of interested parties. For instance, the decision by Vietnam and Kampuchea to withdraw [word indistinct] Vientamese volunteers half of the contingent now staying in Kampuchea by the end of the current year is assessed as a goodwill move. On the whole, the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops will be completed late in 1989-early in 1990. New important components were introduced into the mechanism of drafting a formula for a political settlement of the Kampuchean problem.

An understanding was reached to set up a working group for examination of various aspects of a Kampuchean settlement and improvement of the situation in Southeast Asia. Two questions of a settlement were singled out: The withdrawal of Vietnamese volunteers and prevention of the genocide regime from coming to power, with the understanding that the schedule of troops' withdrawal should concur with termination of aid to Pol Pot forces and any foreign interference in Kampuchea's domestic affairs. A new meeting between Hun Sen and Prince Norodom Sihanouk is planned next October.

The international community displays an (?unflagging) interest in establishing a stable peace in Southeast Asia. The Nonaligned Movement is more vigorously participating in a search for ways of settling the Kampuchean problem. This topic is actively discussed by the great powers and countries which are interested in the earliest termination of the Kampuchean conflict. On its part, the Soviet Union repeatedly pointed out that it is ready, together with all interested states, to make a contribution to the development of the process of settling the Kampuchea situation and to improvement of the political climate in Southeast Asia as a whole.

Near East & South Asia

Troops Return to Kushka From Afghanistan

AU1108084088 Paris AFP in English 0834 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] Kushka, Soviet Union, Aug 11 (AFP)—A column of armoured troop transports carrying about 300 Soviet soldiers returned to the Soviet Union from Afghanistan Thursday, passing through this Turkmenian Republic border town, witnesses said.

The troops who evacuated three southwestern Afghan provinces including those of Kandahar and Farah, were among the first of about 2,000 Soviet soldiers scheduled to return to the Soviet Union on Thursday.

On crossing the border into the Soviet Union, the troops were greeted with a military fanfare and a large banner bearing the inscription: "We salute you who have honestly fulfilled your military and internationalist duty."

A total of 10,000 Soviet soldiers stationed in southern Afghanistan will have been evacuated from the country by August 15, according to Soviet General Lev Serebov.

One-third have been evacuated by air, with the remainder leaving overland, Gen. Serebov told journalists.

Western reporters were allowed to accompany the troop column along the 300-kilometer (186-mile) route from an airbase at Shindand, near the border with Iran, to Kushka.

Opposition Not Affecting Pullout

LD1108105688 Moscow TASS in English 1030 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow August 11 TASS—Soviet soldiers have been pulled out from 19 out of 30 Afghan provinces by now. The intensification of the opposition's combat activity did not affect the schedule of the withdrawal of the Soviet troops, a NEW TIMES correspondent writes in the weekly.

The correspondent quotes the General Staff of the Afghan Armed Forces as saying that the opposition was engaged in cambat operations practically along the entire Afghan-Pakistan border. At the same time one opposition group after another, which opposed the government inside the country, goes over to the government side or takes at least a neutral stand after stopping armed struggle. For example, 30-year-old Meiwajan led a 900-strong detachment fighting for nearly nine years against Soviet and Afghan troops outside Kabul. He recently stopped fighting and started dialogue with the authorities.

"We made contact with the Kabul government, despite the ban from the Seven-Party Alliance, which ordered the mujahidis to wage struggle till the victory—the overthrow of the Najibullah regime," Meiwajan told the NEW TIMES correspondent. "But we believe that the Afghans can and must come to agreement between themselves."

"National reconciliation, the establishment of peace in the country, the restoration of the war-ravaged economy and relief aid to refugees," Dr Muhammad Hasan Sharq, a prominent politician of the older generation, told the correspondent outlining the tasks of his new coalition government, which recently received the vote of confidence in the National Council.

"All those making up the government," he said "have one faith in the possibility of restoring peace and tranquility in the country. Therefore, I think that it is fully justified to call it the government of national unity, although the Islamic opposition is not represented on it.

It is not our fault. All our previous proposals to the leaders of the seven-party alliance remain valid. The only condition is to end the armed struggle and start dialogue."

Afghan Minister on Withdrawal

LD1008222688 Moscow TASS in English 2210 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul August 10 TASS—A new political thinking substantiated by the Communist Party of the Soviet Union found its concrete manifestation on Afghan soil. This has been stated by Sayyed Muhammad Golabzoy, member of the Politbureau of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party, minister of internal affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan, who commented in this way on the end of the first stage of the withdrawal from Afghanistan of the limited contingent of Soviet troops.

In his interview with the TASS special correspondents Sergey Kulik and Yuriy Tyssovskiy the minister pointed out the international significance of this event. "The Afghan people will never forget what the Soviet Union has done for Afghanistan, will not forget the services and the feat of its soldier internationalists. In our opinion, military support rendered by our northern neighbour for the April Revolution is a logical continuation of the traditional friendly relations that have long existed between our two nations", he said.

It is worth recalling again, Sayyed Muhammad Golabzoy added, that the appeal for help and the response to it were fully in conformity with provisions of the U.N. Charter. A collapse of the revolution would mean for the Afghan people the triumph of the sinister reactionary forces, the return to Middle Ages, oppression and poverty for the whole of the country's population.

The minister denounced the anti-Afghan actions of Pakistan which continues to grossly interfere in the internal affairs of Afghanistan by supporting the extremist forces, moreover, by expanding this support in every way. Thus, the activization of opposition armed groups smuggled from Pakistan is not the result of some 'victories' won by the rebels, but evidence of the dishonest play of Islamabad. The preservation of Pakistan on its territory of camps for training counterrevolutionaries is the gross violation of the letter and spirit of the Geneva accords.

The Afghan people are tired of the war. This is why a policy of the 'irreconcilables' aimed at the continuation of bloodshed which affects the civilian population, in the first place, repels the Afghan people from the extremist part of the opposition. On the other hand, the national reconciliation policy enjoys ever greater support among the broad popular masses. This policy to which there is no reasonable alternative is aimed at stopping the fratricidal war and settling the conflicts that could emerge by political means, the minister said.

"This is not a forced concession to a political opponent, but the manifestation of a greater maturity of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan. We are ready to share power with the opposition, even with those who are waging an armed struggle against the government. All this is being done in the interests of the normalizaton of situation in Afghanistan and, in the long run, in the interests of the Afghan people. And the people understand it. This is why we can state with pride today that the putting forward by the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan of the national reconciliation policy enhanced its prestige. The withdrawal of the limited contingent of Soviet troops from Afghanistan opens up new broad prospects for the development of a national dialogue", Sayyed Muhamad Golabzoy said in conclusion.

Army Paper Views Current Qandahar Situation

PM1008135188 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 9 Aug 88 First Edition p 3

[Article by own correspondent Lieutenant Colonel A. Oleynik: "Report From Afghanistan: Qandahar Today"]

[Text] The streets of Qandahar are crowded. City transport is operating and stall-holders are doing a brisk trade. And yet until quite recently battles raged at the approaches to the city. Units of the Afghan Army and subunits of the people's militia inflicted another defeat on armed formations of the opposition, which had attempted to blockade the city and seize the district of Arghandab. A distorted picture of the fighting was broadcast by Western radio stations. Clearly at the behest of the "Peshawar Seven," they tried to spread the most nonsensical fabrications, alleging that the city of Qandahar "does not exist" now and that after the withdrawal of Soviet troops, power "automatically" passed into the hands of the opposition.

"This malicious propaganda shows no sign of abating even now, when we have seen off Soviet motorized riflemen and airmen to their motherland," said Ahmad Nabi, secretary of the PDPA provincial committee. "But we have a fine proverb: You can't obscure the sun with the hem of your robe. No matter how much the opposition and its protectors in Pakistan and the United States have it in for us, reality is more potent than calumny. It cannot, of course, be said that complete calm and peace has been restored to the city. At night and sometimes even during the day you can still hear the whine of rebel rockets fired at the city. However, life in the city goes on. The organs of power and the people's militia are operating vigorously."

"We fully understand that the armed opposition has not resigned itself to its latest defeat," added Afghan Army Colonel Shamsuddin, who had been appointed chief of an administration of the Ministry of State Security in Qandahar Province a few days earlier and who was also present during the conversation. "This city has always occupied a key place in the plans of the counterrevolution. It is no coincidence that one-third of all the arms

sent, contrary to the Geneva agreements, from Pakistan are dispatched to our province. There are now more than 300 bandit groups, numbering roughly 17,000 men, concentrated here, although it is true that only 3,000-5,000 of them are actively operating against the people's power. Units of the Afghan Army and operational subunits of the people's militia and state security forces are ready to fittingly repulse the rebels. Considerable credit is due here to Lieutenant General 'Ulumi, governor general of the province, who enjoys great authority in the Army and the confidence of the local population. But we are aware of all the problems and difficulties ahead."

Yes, there are many difficulties in Qandahar. Around 40 percent of dwellings, many hospitals, and 90 schools—almost half of those in the province—have been destroyed during the war. Some 6,000 people have have returned from abroad in the last 2 months. And more than 10,000 people in all have returned to Qandahar this year. They all have to be fed, clothed, and provided with accomodations, albeit temporarily.

The governor general, a taxi driver, and stall-holders—everyone we conversed with during our stay there spoke highly of the Soviet aid given to the city and to the entire province. With the assistance of Soviet specialists, including our servicemen stationed near Qandahar, an asphalt plant has been built, one of the city's districts electrified, tens of kilometers of roads repaired, and many buildings, including mosques, restored. The following fact is also noteworthy: Several dozen stalls and stores in the city are selling goods from the Soviet Union.

"We need peace, for the city will then quickly heal the wounds caused by the war," Abdul Sobor, a merchant, said in measured tones as he stroked his beard. "A great role in reviving the city and supplying everything it needs is to be played by the traders, private businessmen, who now enjoy the all-around support of our government. Our people are industrious. By concerted effort and with the support of foreign friends, above all our northern neighbor—the Soviet Union—we will restore life to normal in Qandahar."

The merchant Abdul Sobor, who is chairman of the Qandahar Chamber of Commerce and Industry, is a respected person in the city. He recently returned from Alma-Ata, where he headed a delegation of Qandahar traders who had gone there to conclude contracts and trade agreements as part of direct ties with the Kazakh SSR. The size of deliveries and prices were agreed upon during the talks, and a contract to export goods worth $12 million to Qandahar was signed. Deliveries will include 20,000 tonnes of flour, 3,000 tonnes of salt, 600 tonnes of vegetable oil, 4,000 tonnes of building cement, 15,000 bicycles...

"This is a great help to our ruined economy," Abdul Sobor stressed. "I hope that it will grow with time. We will also be supplying the Soviet Union to the best of our ability with raisins, fruit, tea, and cloth—everything that we have in abundance."

How soon will Qandahar heal its wounds? Will its streets be quickly restored from the ruins? Answers to these question are now being sought not only by the inhabitants of Qandahar but by the whole of Afghanistan. Clearly, the city is returning to normal, but it is still too early to say that Qandahar has ceased to be a "trouble spot." Now that our troops have left the province, the opposition will be going all out to wreck the process of reconciliation.

Soldiers Send POW Appeal to Reagan, Pakistan
LD1008204088 Moscow TASS in English 1932 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow August 10 TASS—Former soldiers-internationalists today forwarded an appeal to U.S. President Ronald Reagan and the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Ziaul Haq. The appeal says, in part: "We soldiers-internationalists, reservists, teenagers, young citizens of our country regard as our duty to carry on the efforts for the liberation of our lads each of whom is waited at home. We approach you with the request and simultaneously the demand that everything depending on you personally be done to set free our battlefield comrades".

...There are three of them. On the breast of one of them is the gold medal of the Hero of the Soviet Union, others are the holders of the Red Star Order. Igor Chmurov, Oleg Mikhnyuk and Yevgeny Slidenko flew to Moscow from Novorossiysk, the venue of the All-Union Rally of Reservists, to help our lads who were taken prisoner in Afghanistan. The participants in the rally, and there are more than 2,500 of them, decided to send a message to the leaders of the United States and Pakistan.

At the U.S. Embassy the young people were received by the Airforce and Navy attache and the second secretary of the embassy, who assured that the text of the message would be brought to the knowledge of the President.

The soldiers-internationalists were met in a different manner in the Pakistani Embassy. The man who opened a massive door did not wish to present himself. He said that the only thing he was authorized to do was to accept their appeal.

"We handed over the text of the appeal", Igor Chmurov, Hero of the Soviet Union, told journalists. "But it seems to me that it will all the same remain in this building. The Pakistani Government, which constantly violates the Geneva agreements, does not need another mentioning of our prisoners, their tragic position. But we will do everything to save our comrades".

Kabul Rocket Attack Kills 1, Wounds 3
LD1008163688 Moscow TASS in English 1458 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul August 10 TASS—Thirteen rockets exploded today in Kabul districts situated around the airport.

Direct hits destroyed three houses in Chaman-Charkhel neighbourhood. According to preliminary estimates, one civilian was killed and three were wounded.

Among the victims of the latest crime committed by extremists are two children and a woman.

Paper Views Sweeps To Stop Shelling of Kabul
PM1008143088 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
10 Aug 88 Morning Edition pp 1, 4

[Special correspondent Yevg. Bay article: "On-the-Spot Reportage": "Guarding Against the 'Terror Caravans'"]

[Text] Kabul—The Afghan capital has become quieter over the last few days. The number of shellings of the city has fallen, and the inhabitants of Kabul have begun to breathe more freely.

This respite is due to a number of successful Afghan Army operations to clear from the environs of Kabul the extremists gangs, which have here accumulated a large quantity of weapons and ammunition brought in from Pakistani territory. As a result, many missiles and mines with which the rebels were attacking Kabul have been seized. Guard posts, including Soviet posts, have been set up in the path of the "terror caravans."

Military post No 10 is located 20 km southeast of Kabul, not far from the Jalalabad highway. Soviet servicemen monitor the surrounding area day and night in order to detect and promptly destroy the enemy's firing positions, especially missile launching positions. The post is encircled by a mountain range, and the entire defensive circle bristles with camouflaged artillery pieces dug into the ground.

"An attack could only be launched from the direction of the mountains," A. Kurkushin, battalion deputy commander for political work, observes. "They cannot get close to us over the flat land; the rebels will not go into the attack against us. But they could shell us from a distance. Beyond the mountain range there are no more Soivet troops, all the way to the Pakistani border. So here we are on the frontline of the defense of Kabul."

Foreign journalists—a large group of them has come to Afghanistan to cover the withdrawal of Soviet troops—surrounded the Soviet major in a tight ring: "Where might the mujahidin be now? Can they see us?" At that moment a nearby gun fires, and one of the guests jumps with surprise.

"They tried to shell Kabul yesterday evening, from our range, about 7 km from the post," the political deputy points out. "We had just opened preventive fire and observed movement on the other slope. There are no trade routes there, no locals live there, so if anyone appears in the grid sqaures we are covering, it means that the rebels are preparing their positions for a new shelling."

In recent days the extremists have resorted more and more often to a provocative ruse, that of carrying out a mock missile launch. Our artillery immediately goes into action in response, and at that moment the rocket shells are fired on Kabul from an entirely different direction. There is a thunder of artillery guns, and after a while the rocket shells start descending on the city. On the same day provocateurs in the bandits' pay spread rumors in Kabul that the shelling is carried out by the "shuravi"—the Russians.

"Many of the missiles used by the extremists have an Egyptian trademark," A. Kurkushin says. "A week ago, during one operation, two Egyptian advisers were captured. As a rule they dress in black—a black helmet, a black bulletproof vest."

Afghan servicemen Nur Muhammad, who was released from captivity, also said the day before that there are Egyptian advisers among the mujahidin. During a major operation in the locality of Khak-e Jabbar, not far from Kabul, the Afghan Army seized a large consignment of Chinese-made rifles, U.S.-made mortars, and several sacks of rocket shells (about 200 of them) and mines which would have been directed against the city in the next few days.

"There were two Arab advisers among the mujahidin," Nur Muhammad says. "They taught them to prepare firing positions and fire shells at a longer range—up to 30 km. They kept me in a cave for several weeks in hope of exchanging me for gang members captured by the Army, and then they started using me as a 'human mine detector'—they made me go ahead of the group in places where there could be mines."

Nur Muhammad is now back with his unit in the first ring of the city's defenses. Our troops will soon be brought out of the country, and Afghan servicemen will take their place, for they are now capable of fulfilling the tasks that they formerly entrusted to Soviet soldiers.

A representative of our command explains this to the journalists visiting the post:

"The Soviet Union could accelerate the troop withdrawal if Pakistan renounced the escalation of armed interference..."

Unfortunately, there is no sign of that. Every day reports reach Kabul about "terror caravans" crossing the border from Pakistan. A string of obedient asses loaded with new rocket shells and mines follows the mountain tracks in the direction of Kabul. They are accompanied by more and more gangs of "irreconcilables," who are generously paid to shell the civilian population. Incapable of direct confrontation with the Afghan Armed Forces, the "fighters for Islam" continue to gamble on terror.

Afghan Political, Military Situation 'Complex'

LD1008150388 Moscow TASS in English 1430 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul August 10 TASS—The military and political situation remains complex in some of the provinces of Afghanistan. Latest reports attest to continued attempts by the armed opposition to take over control of the situation in some areas through terror and subversion. During the past two days settlements in the provinces of Kabul, Helmand, Ghazni, Kapisa, Qandahar, Konarha, Lowgar, Nangarhar and Paktia were subjected to missile and artillery fire. Weapons and ammunition continue to be poured into these and other areas from Pakistan.

To prevent criminal actions aimed chiefly against innocent people, units of the Republic's Armed Forces have carried out several operations. Near the village of Behsud in Nangarhar, Afghan Army soldiers destroyed a gang which attempted to capture the village. In the settlement of Samarkhal near the city of Jalalabad a depot of hand grenades and explosives was uncovered, ready to be dispatched into the provincial centre. Yet another anti-government group was liquidated in the province [as received] of Chaprahar. Peasants took an active part in the operation.

A large grouping of rebels belonging to the organizations of Gulbuddin Hikmatyar and Yunis Khalis was routed by Army units in the province of Konarha. Dozens of extremists were killed and a large quantity of weapons was taken, including rocket launchers, mortars, recoilless artillery pieces, large-calibre machine-guns. A caravan which was to deliver weapons to an anti-government grouping from Pakistan was fully destroyed.

Yet another caravan was heading for the rebels operating in Lowgar. Units of the Afghan Army had ambushed and destroyed it. Among those killed in the fighting was a Pakistani adviser. In Qandahar two terrorists were apprehended in the act. They had penetrated the city to engage in subversion and to kill state officials. In the same province, the area of Imam, a depot with ammunition for heavy artillery pieces was captured from the opposition groups.

In connection with Pakistan's continuing interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, which manifests itself in the dispatch of arms and of armed detachments of the opposition, in the training of rebels in the camps near the border, the 67th note of the Afghan Foreign Ministry was presented to the U.N. observers in Kabul. The note lists concrete facts of non-observance of the Geneva accords.

Bitter infighting between anti-government groups in the territory of Afghanistan continues unabated. In the rural areas of the provinces of Laghman, Samangan, Ghazni, and Oruzgan about 50 rebels were killed in two days. As a result of these internecine clashes between detachments of different party allegiance, several innocent people died, many homes were destroyed and harvests were set ablaze.

In the last twenty-four hours another 500 refugees returned to Afghanistan. Having received aid from the state, they headed for their native villages in the provinces of Qandahar, Kabul and Konduz.

TASS Views Afghan Economic Cooperation

LD1108095388 Moscow TASS in English 0916 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow August 11 TASS—TASS correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev reports:

The volume of trade between the Soviet Union and Afghanistan reached over 320 million roubles in the first half of 1988, it was learned from the USSR Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations today. This figure, apparently, will look quite modest in near future. The policy of national reconciliation creates the conditions for the revival of Afghan economy, and the Soviet Union is prepared for the widening of cooperation.

Soviet and Afghan organizations recently concluded drafting a long-term programme of economic, technical and commercial cooperation between the Soviet Union and the Republic of Afghanistan for the period up to the year 2000. This document is expected to be signed during the coming visit to Moscow by head of the Afghan Government Muhammad Hasan Sharq. The programme envisages cooperation in the reconstruction and building of mining, processing, power generating, transport and agricultural enterprises, as well as facilities in the social area.

Over 100 facilities built with Soviet participation have been put into operation and function effectively in Afghanistan, while 130 others are being built.

Economic ties between the USSR and Afghanistan develop to mutual advantage of the two countries and have great potential. Cooperation with Afghanistan's private capital is, for instance, developing now. Its representatives by tradition contribute much to the development of trade between the two countries. The strengthening of direct ties between Soviet republics and Afghan provinces, cities of the two countries, Soviet and Afghan ministries and directorates, enterprises and work collectives is envisaged.

A greater number of people from Afghanistan will be trained in the USSR to become specialists of the national economy, workers in science and the arts. The joint construction of a complex of institutes of the Afghan Academy of Sciences is planned. Successful preparations are made for a space flight of a Soviet-Afghan crew.

The wounds inflicted on Afghan soil by a war lasting over many years should be healed. The Soviet Union contributes to heading these wounds. It is important that no more obstacles in the way of Afghan revival be placed by war. USSR Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said in an interview to the news agency BAKHTAR: "Those who destroy facilities and communications built with our assistance should realise that they destroy the property of the people, deny light, water, food and clothing to ordinary people exhausted by war".

Afghan Envoy's Letter to UN Condemns Pakistan

LD1108082288 Moscow TASS in English 0703 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] New York August 11 TASS—Centres for training and arming opposition groups continue functioning in Pakistan over two months and a half that passed since the enactment of the Geneva agreements. It is the obvious violation of the spirit and the letter of these agreements. This is said in a letter of Afghanistan's permanent representative at the United Nations Shah Muhammad Dost to the U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. The letter has been distributed here.

The so-called provisional government has been formed in Pakistan in violation of the Geneva agreements, big armed opposition units are being sent to Afghanistan's territory with the direct participation of the Pakistani authorities, and the U.N. observers are deprived of a possibility, under various pretexts, of inspecting the areas where there are arms depots. The firing of missiles on Kabul and other towns became possible only as a result of deliveries of a big number of missiles via Pakistan.

Armed Forces of Pakistan are openly taking part in rendering assistance to subversive activities of opposition groups and are even directly involved in provocative actions directed against Afghanistan, the document underlines.

Refugees are being deprived of a possibility to return to Afghanistan, since those who are suspected of this intention are being systematically persecuted. They are beaten, put behind prison bars and even killed in some cases. Groups of U.N. observers questioned only a few so-called representatives of refugees who were thoroughly picked up by the opposition and the Pakistani authorities, but questions could never been put in confidential conditions.

The Pakistani authorities, the letter runs, did not allow establishment of permanent posts of U.N. observers to see into cases of deliveries of arms and ammunition of extremist groups in Afghanistan through Pakistan. The U.N. office in Islamabad does not have so far proper transportation facilities, above all helicopters, though the Pakistani authorities are, according to the Geneva agreements, to provide them with such facilities for inspection.

Arab League Gulf War Delegation Arrives

Kuwait's Shaykh Sabah on Visit

LD1008181888 Kuwait KUNA in English 1427 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow, Aug 10 (KUNA)—Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir accompanied by Iraq's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'dun Hammadi arrived here Wednesday aboard a special Kuwaiti airliner.

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov and head of the Middle East and North Africa Department at the Foreign Ministry Vladimir Polyakov were on hand to receive the Arab League delegation at the airport in addition to Kuwait Embassy staff here.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said that the future of peace between Iraqi and Iran would become clear following the Geneva peace talks betwen the two countries starting on August 25 under the U.N. auspices.

"We are looking forward for peace, the direction and shape of which will become clear on basis of the ceasefire between Iraq and Iran taking effect August 20, and the start of direct negotiations five days later," he declared upon arrival here today.

The chief Kuwaiti diplomat, who was speaking exclusively to KUNA and TASS news agency, heaped praise on the outstanding job U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar had done to announce a ceasefire between Tehran and Baghdad.

Shaykh Sabah said it is now the responsibility of the U.N. Security Council to achieve a sequential enforcement of Resolution 598 on the Gulf war to bring about just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Arabian Gulf region.

Asked on the superpowers role in normalizing relations between Iraq and Iran, Shaykh Sabah said that their responsibility is limited to "following up implementation of the international solution."

They will also have to back the direct negotiations between the two parties and pressure, in the event those negotiations fail, the party that is not prepared to achieve peace and that exploited the 598 Resolution to realize a truce, he elaborated.

Shaykh Sabah pointed out that "things are now heading in the right direction, toward face-to-face talks that would reveal the party that wishes either peace or war."

Speaking of Iran's acceptance of the Security Council resolution, the Kuwaiti chief diplomat said that "changes in the war front pushed Iran to accept the

international decision which it had rejected for one whole year" and pointed out that Tehran apparently preferred accepting the decision to continuing the war.

He hoped, in conclusion, that the Gulf war would come to an end and peace and security would prevail in the Gulf region, further hoping that 1988 would witness the end of all regional disputes.

Demichev Receives Delegation

LD1108103388 Moscow TASS in English 1015 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow August 11 TASS—Petr Demichev, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and first vice president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, received in the Kremlin today a delegation of the Iran-Iraq Conflict Committee of the League of Arab States, comprising Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Kuwait's deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, and Sa'dun Hammadi, member of Iraq's Revolutionary Command Council and minister of state for foreign affairs.

The conversation focused on in-depth discussion of ways of deblocking the Iran-Iraq conflict and achieving a comprehensive, just, lasting and honourable settlement between Iran and Iraq.

The Soviet side expressed sincere satisfaction with the fact that Iran and Iraq gave consent to a ceasefire which will take effect on August 20, this year. Petr Demichev stressed that the Soviet Union firmly proceeded from the need not only to maintain but also to step up the nascent progress towards peace. Following the ceasefire, all other provisions of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 must be fully fulfilled to put an end to the war and open up way to peaceful cooperation and goodneighbourliness.

It was stressed that the Soviet Union would continue rendering all-round support to the U.N. secretary-general's peace mission, which becomes increasingly important in the light of the forthcoming face-to-face political talks, do everything possible to help the people of Iran and Iraq to acquire a lasting peace and devote their energies to solving socio-economic tasks.

It was also noted that the problem of the situation in the Persian Gulf area must not be left beyond the framework of the Iranian-Iraqi settlement. What is needed there is to defuse tensions and to free the Gulf from the naval vessels of non-littoral states. It was stressed that the well-known Soviet proposals on that score remained valid.

The representatives of the League of Arab States highly assessed the position of the Soviet Union in the course of ending the Iranian-Iraqi war, expressed gratitude for its huge and effective efforts in that area. On the part of the League of Arab States, the hope was expressed that as a result of the ceasefire and the forthcoming direct political talks all issues leading to establishing a lasting and stable peace in the region would be solved.

The conversation passed in a constructive and friendly atmosphere.

New Zealand To Take Part in UN Gulf Force

LD1008175988 Moscow TASS in English 1615 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Canberra August 10 TASS—New Zealand will dispatch 10 servicemen to the U.N. group to monitor a ceasefire between Iran and Iraq. The New Zealand Foreign Ministry announced today that they would be stationed on the Iranian territory. The decision on setting up an international force to monitor an armistice between Iran and Iraq was taken by the U.N. on Tuesday after Tehran and Baghdad agreed to stop combat operations on August 20.

Agreement to PLO 'Government-in-Exile' Noted

JN1108103488 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] Informed Palestinian sources in Damascus have said that Moscow informed Palestinian Leader Yasir 'Arafat of its support for the imminent declaration of a Palestinian government-in-exile as a way out of disagreement over Palestinian representation in an international peace conference.

In today's issue, AL-ITTIHAD cited these sources as saying that during his expected Arab tour, King Husayn of Jordan will support the inclination to establish such a government and help the PLO shoulder its responsibilities in the occupied territories. The sources also said that Arab moves to assert the Jordanian decision to dismantle ties with the West Bank will be made.

Israeli Envoy Meets Foreign Ministry Official

TA0708093188 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 7 Aug 88 p 2

[Report from Jerusalem by the political correspondent]

[Text] Meron Gordon, who heads the Israeli consular delegation in Moscow, has held his first meeting with the deputy director of the Consular Administration Department of the Soviet Foreign Ministry in Moscow.

Although the meeting was friendly, it turned out that at this stage the delegation will not be allowed to extend its terms of reference, although this might be possible in the more distant future. The delegation is not permitted to use the Israeli Embassy building in Moscow even though Israel pays rent for the facility and officially still has rights to it.

Meron Gordon said that members of the delegation meet freely with Jews, just as other diplomats do.

Producer Says Gorbachev Approves 'Aliyah' Film
TA0708120788 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 7 Aug 88 p 3

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Text] Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has approved the production of a film about aliyah [journey of emigrants] from the USSR to Israel, Soviet movie producer Konstantin Aleksandrov told Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres yesterday. The producer said that the authorities are cooperating and assisting in the preparation of the film. In the conversation, Peres praised the recent steps taken by Gorbachev in the USSR and in his relations with Israel and the West.

Communist Party To Enter Tunisian Elections
PM0908144888 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 9 Aug 88 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Tunisian Communist Party Central Committee Statement"]

[Text] Tunis, 8 Aug—The Tunisian Communist Party [PCT] has decided to take part in the forthcoming partial parliamentary elections in the country. A PCT Central Committee statement issued today notes that this decision was adopted at a Central Committee session on the basis of the declaration by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, in which he pledged to guarantee democratic elections and to exclude vote tampering.

The PCT Central Committee called on the Tunisian authorities to give opposition parties the opportunity to expound their positions and programs through the mass media. In order to give concrete form to the president's pledges, the statement says, a series of political and administrative measures should now be adopted to ensure that the election campaign is democratic in nature at every stage. In this connection, the PCT proposed the establishment of a national commission with the participation of all political parties to monitor the course of the elections.

Commentary Views Tunisian 'Restructuring'
LD0908211088 Moscow International Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Journalist Konstantin Andreyev commentary: "Tunisian-Style Restructuring"]

[Text] The extraordinary congress of the ruling Democratic Constitutional Rally [RDC] held 29-31 July in the Tunisian capital has had wide repercussions. The congress was called the salvation congress, and it was expected to confirm those positive democratic changes which are taking place in Tunisia following the accession to power of the new party and government under the chairmanship of Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, president of the Republic and the chairman of the RDC.

The congress showed that the process of nurturing democracy in the social and political life of the country is receiving increasing support from the Tunisian national forces. Proof of this were the congress delegates' speeches and the greetings by leaders of Tunisia's legal opposition political parties and some of the main mass organizations. It was particularly significant that the ruling party's congress listened for the first time to the speech of Tunisian Communist Party leader Mohamed Harmel.

The presence of more than 60 delegations from foreign parties and some international federations proved that the world shows great interest in Tunisian events. Local commentators noted that among the foreign guests were delegations from most of the ruling parties in the socialist countries, including the CPSU. President Ben Ali's calls refer to ending anarchy and autocratic rule, saving the country by spreading democracy, establishing the principle of pluralism, removing all obstacles from the development of the economy, and turning the ruling party into a vanguard force. All this shows the Tunisian leadership's desire to find a solution for the complex political, social, and economic problems facing the country. When the problem of the Muslim fundamentalists was recently at its peak, the president's statements concerning the unlawfulness of the exploitation of Islam for political purposes attracted everyone's attention.

The democratic forces in Tunisia support President Ben Ali's policy. They also consider that the active participation of the toiling masses in spreading true democracy should be a precondition of democracy. It seems that there are many things that will also depend on the way in which dialogue and cooperation develop—practically and within the framework of political pluralism—between the RDC and the Tunisian national forces.

Many prominent Tunisians see a direct relationship between the changes in the country and the revolutionary restructuring in the Soviet Union, though they are well aware of the basic differences between the two social systems and the existing climates in the two countries. The Soviet Union views with sincere sympathy and respect the democratic renewal processes in Tunisian society which began on 7 November 1987. It fully understands Tunisia's independent foreign policy line and stresses the similarity of the stances of our two countries on many important international issues. As shown by the greetings of the CPSU Central Committee to the extraordinary session of the Tunisian RDC, the CPSU places great importance on the development of friendly Soviet-Tunisian relations in all spheres, including interparty ties. With the help of joint work on the basis of the new political thinking, for choosing their path to development, we will be able to contribute greatly to the spread of democracy and to a humane disposition in international relations to build a world free from nuclear weapons and violence.

Paper Marks Anniversary of Indian Cooperation
PM1008083488 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 9 Aug 88 Second Edition p 4

[Own correspondent V. Korovikov report: "USSR-India: Substantial Fruits"]

[Excerpts] Delhi, 8 Aug—The date 9 August 1971 is an important one in the history of Soviet-Indian relations. On that day, the Treaty on Peace, Friendship, and Cooperation was signed between the two states. [passage omitted]

This year the total volume of Indian-Soviet trade will set a new record—50 billion rupees. The setting up of joint enterprises has begun. As I was told by M. Shah, chairman of the chamber of trade and industry, agreements have already been concluded on 22 of the 60 specific proposals for joint production. The joint meetings of Soviet and Indian businessmen and agricultural specialists were useful. The USSR Gosagroprom has signed six agreements, and new spheres of cooperation have been outlined which will help to resolve our food problems and ensure the more efficient processing of agricultural raw materials in both India and the Soviet Union.

For the first time, a discussion is under way of the wide opportunities for cooperation taking into account the specific features and needs of different regions of the Soviet Union and India. Representatives of the Central Asian republics, for instance, have been here to study the requirements of the local market and to offer their own goods. And the August issue of the journal of the Indian-Soviet chamber of trade and industry devotes four whole pages to announcements just from Uzbek firms, plants, and institutes. They can supply India with various machines and equipment for cotton growers, various chemicals, medicines, and karakul skins. And much more. The Tashkent jewelry factory is proposing to cooperate with Indian craftsmen to create and produce new ornaments based on oriental traditions. A concrete program for joint work is put forward by the Uzbek Academy of Sciences biochemistry institute.

Until very recently we did not have such forms of cooperation. Our friendly relations with India are opening up the broadest prospects for innovation and bold initiatives both by Soviet collectives and by Indian state and private firms. However, it is necessary to consistently seek the implementation of plans and proposals, and not to confine matters to good intentions, which still happens not infrequently.

Our cooperation also continues in the established, traditional forms. The Soviet Union's contribution to the creation of modern heavy industry in India and the energy base for the country's entire economy is well known. Our links in these spheres are strengthening. The power workers have big plans. Construction work is nearing completion at the major "Bindhachal" thermal power station, where two powerful units have already been commissioned. Work is getting under way on the construction site of another thermal power station—Kahalgaon in Bihar state. The preparatory work in connection with the construction of a major hydroelectric power station at Tihri in the Himalayas, with a capacity of more than 2 million kilowatts, is developing on a wide front. This project is crucial, and a careful, comprehensive study of all aspects of the Indian design is necessary. Our experienced specialists in hydroengineering construction in mountainous regions, V.A. Davydov, A.K. Fink, and others, together with their Indian colleagues, are currently tackling the concrete problems of this large construction project.

Prospects for further joint operations are also emerging. At the latest conference of the Indo-Soviet working party on the power industry, it was decided that the Soviet Union will be able over the next decade to assist India in increasing its energy capacities by 6 million kilowatts. Aid and cooperation in the power industry are very important for India. The chronic shortage of electricity is retarding the country's economic development. Thus, it was stated in Parliament the other day that the electricity requirement for 1988-89 will be 229 billion kilowatt-hours, whereas some 210 billion will be generated. The shortage is perceptible. It has also been calculated that in order to fulfill its plans for economic growth, India will have to increase electricity generation by 8-10 percent a year. It is clear that our country's aid will make a substantial contribution to resolving India's energy shortage. Thus, in close cooperation in all spheres—from world politics to cultural exchange—the articles of the Treaty on Peace, Friendship, and Cooperation are being put into practice, and our peoples' alliance is strengthening.

Sub-Saharan Africa

Commentary Views Geneva Talks on Southern Africa
MB1008144588 Moscow in English to Southern Africa 1800 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Commentary by Boris Asoyan]

[Text] Those who expected the meeting of Angolan, Cuban, and South African delegations held in Geneva, through the mediation of the United States, to yield positive results have good reason to be satisfied. A number of agreements were reached on a number of very important issues. In the first place, a cease-fire, under which South Africa is to withdraw its troops from Angola by 1 September.

Under this agreement, the UN Security Council Resolution 435 granting Namibia independence is to be put into effect by 1 November. The participants in the talks confirmed their readiness to negotiate in the spirit of the declaration on the principles of interrelationship proclaimed on the eve of the Geneva meeting, and decided to continue their search for a mutually acceptable formula to put an end to the conflict in the southwest of Africa.

The Governments of Angola and Cuba contributed largely to the continuation of the talks by consistently and patiently upholding the need of attaining political solutions. Many do not quite understand Pretoria's unexpected agreement to hold round-table talks with such inconceivable partners [word indistinct] as Havana and Luanda.

The clue to this riddle lies in the basically new military and political situation that has emerged in that part of the world. The balance of forces there is now unfavorable to South Africa. The attempts made for about 10 years already to destabilize the situation in Angola and to settle the seemingly legal puppet administration in Namibia have proved to be futile, and all this despite the ever greater military spending of South Africa, running up to $2,000 million a year, and its heavy losses in men.

Another stimulus to the Geneva talks was the ever greater pressure applied to South Africa by world public opinion and, in the first place, by the threat of more stringent economic sanctions. There can be no doubt at all that Pretoria also took due account of the new atmosphere in international relations, created by the Soviet Union's [words indistinct].

The difficulties arising in the course of the talks are evident from the great differences existing between the hawks and superhawks of the Pretoria leadership, where there are no doves at all. We do not know whether they came to a compromise before going to Geneva, but it is clear that both find it very difficult to find a suitable solution to many key problems besieging the regime.

For instance, what is to be done with the [word indistinct] of UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] suddenly? What is to be expected from the ultrarightists who threaten to create a united front against what they describe as the treacherous policy of President Botha? In any case, it is naive to expect that the settlement of the situation in the south of Africa will be an easy matter.

Many issues will have to be settled in Angola, that has been torn apart for 13 years by internal conflict and South African pressure. Many difficulties will arise on the road of Namibia's independence. Many difficult compromises will have to be made to achieve peace in that part of the world.

It is necessary to realize, however painful that may be, that the interests of the parties concerned are closely interrelated. It is important to take the first step, and to begin to move in that direction. Well, it seems that the first step has already been made in Geneva.

East Europe

Letters Written During 'Prague Spring' Cited

LD1008172788 Moscow International Service in Czech 1500 GMT 10 Aug 88

[From the "From Our Mailbag" program]

[Text] "From Our Mailbag" is today devoted to old letters received by Radio Moscow throughout its history. Here are two letters. One is from Josef Pospisil from Frydek-Mistek, who wrote a letter about his admiration of the USSR during World War II and how he listened to Radio Moscow during the war. In his letter he recalls the end of the sixties, when antisocialist forces in Czechoslovakia unleashed a campaign of slander and attacks against the CPCZ and the USSR. Hysteria against the USSR culminated on 21 August 1968, Josef Pospisil wrote, when the Warsaw Pact troops arrived in our country. In that very difficult time, full of contradicatory news, I started to listen to Radio Moscow regularly again. I had the radio on full blast so that the neighbors could hear your signature tune. Incidentally, many people stopped speaking to me then. Radio Moscow at that time broadcast in Czech and Slovak day and night. Listeners wrote different letters to us. Some asked us to help them understand what was going on. Among the letters were, however, also anonymous threats, reproaches, even insults.

Most letters, however, came from people who were hesitant: What can be done? Where is the truth? How could it happen? A listener from Trnava, who asked not to be named, admitted: In August 1968 I stopped listening to your broadcast to protest the arrival of the troops. However, I continued to be interested in politics; I tried to understand what was happening and [words indistinct] in our country. On the one hand, the organizers of the Prague Spring claimed that we needed socialism with a human face, and on the other hand, they wanted Czechoslovakia to leave the Warsaw Pact and CEMA. It was even whispered that enterprises and factories would perhaps be returned to their former owners. The matters were bordering on the renewal of capitalism. Nice words about freedom and socialism with a human face were only a cover under which they wanted to hide from the people. Once I understood that, things became clear to me. I started not only to listen to Radio Moscow broadcasts again but to write to your editorial office as well.

PZPR Politburo Session Notes 'Positive Changes'

PM1008134588 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 6 Aug 88 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Activeness is Growing"]

[Text] Warsaw, 5 Aug—The tasks of the party organizations in resolving the topical problems set at the recent PZPR Central Committee Plenum, and above all in the field of political work among the workers, were examined at a routine session of the PZPR Central Committee Politburo.

The session noted the increase in the effectiveness of party work; the growth of the numerical strength of the PZPR's ranks and of representatives of the workers, peasants, and young people among party candidate members; and the improvement of the quality of work of the primary party organizations and their mounting influence and role locally, in political, social, and economic transformations. At the same time a number of

negative phenomena need to be effectively countered: The numerical strength of PZPR members continues to be low among those engaged directly in production and there are shortcomings in the primary party organizations' political work.

The sore points of daily life are having a powerful effect on the position and mood of the working class. Concern is growing over the living and working conditions and social security of workers' families. The state of the market's supply, the slow pace at which economic balance is being attained, and the inflation pressure which has been stepped up recently are being assessed critically. The results of economic reform still do not accord with aspirations or promises.

Despite this, the reforms in the economy and the state are giving rise to positive changes among workers, the PZPR Central Committee Politburo noted. The working people's political activeness is growing.

MSZMP Politburo Approves Warsaw Pact Report

LD1008184988 Moscow TASS in English 1810 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Budapest August 10 TASS—The Political Bureau of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party Central Committee, which met here on Tuesday, discussed and approved the report of the Hungarian Party and Government delegation, which attended the meeting of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Treaty member-states held in the Polish capital on July 15-16.

It was noted at the meeting that the holding of regular and constructive consultations, a democratic coordination of the viewpoints accord with the national and general interests.

The Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee considers it important that in keeping with the statement adopted in the Polish capital by the Warsaw Treaty member-states and the previous proposals of those countries, talks should start as soon as possible on a cut in armed forces and conventional weapons in Europe. Hungary is interested in the first stage of reductions applying also to the troops stationed in her territory.

The Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee considers it an extremely important objective that more attention should be devoted to human rights and humanitarian issues in the cooperation of the socialist countries in the future. A special commission to attend to these questions will be set up within the framework of the Warsaw Treaty Organization.

A report was also heard at the meeting of the leaders of the delegations of the Warsaw Treaty member states in the Polish capital on July 16. The Political Bureau has welcomed the holding of regular meetings and constructive exchanges of views and experience concerning the development of cooperation.

The Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee gave a high appraisal of the Warsaw meeting between Karoly Grosz and Wojciech Jaruzelski. The talks have shown that the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party and the Polish United Workers Party are equally interested in an international renovation of socialism. Both states strive for the perfection of socialism, a consistent implementation of large-scale political and economic reforms with due regard for their national distinctive features. Political relations without problems involved are a good basis for broadening an exchange of ideological experience, for further preservation of the results achieved in the economic relations between the two countries.

The meeting heard and approved the report by Karoly Grosz on the results of the visits to the USA and Canada. The Political Bureau believes that the meeting with Ronald Reagan was of great significance. It was placed on record that the talks held with the American leaders have served towards a better familiarization with the stands of the two countries, strengthening trust and creating political conditions necessary for a further development of Hungarian-American ties.

The Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party highly appraised the first meeting between the heads of the governments of Hungary and Canada.

West Europe

Soviet-Turkish Trade Committee Ends Work

LD1008123688 Moscow TASS in English 1222 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Istanbul August 10 TASS—The first meeting of the Turkish-Soviet business cooperation committee ended its work here. For two days representatives of Soviet foreign trade associations and of the Turkish business community were engaged in frank and constructive talks on ways of improving further bilateral cooperation in various economic sectors. Six specially established working committees examined questions and proposals aimed at expanding the range of imported and exported goods and at increasing trade turnover between the two countries.

The final document emphasizes mutual desire for improving bilateral trade and economic relations and points to the need for a search and use of new forms of cooperation.

Vorontsov Hosts Lunch for Departing UK Envoy

LD1008163788 Moscow TASS in English 1626 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow August 10 TASS—Yuliy Vorontsov, USSR first deputy foreign minister, today gave a luncheon in honour of Bryan Cartledge, British ambassador to the Soviet Union, in connection with the latter's final departure for Britain.

A constructive and businesslike conversation was held.

Razumov-Led Delegation Returns From FRG Visit
LD1008220588 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1622 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow, 10 Aug (TASS)—A CPSU delegation headed by Yevgeniy Razumov, member of the CPSU Central Committee and first deputy chief of the Organizational Party Work Department of the CPSU Central Committee, which was in the FRG at the invitation of the leadership of the German Communist Party, returned to Moscow today.

Latin America & Caribbean

Shultz Visit to Ecuador, Demonstrations Noted
LD1008223588 Moscow TASS in English 2225 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Quito August 10 TASS—U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz arrived in Ecuador today to attend a swearing-in ceremony of Rodrigo Borja Cevallos, new president of that country.

Shultz' visit to Ecuador is part of his tour of nine Latin American countries.

Representatives of public organizations of Ecuador held protest demonstrations at the international airport of the Ecuadoran capital against the visit of the U.S. secretary of state.

Latin American Communist Parties' Communique
PA1008195888 Moscow in Spanish to Latin America 0000 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Representatives of the Communist Parties of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela participated in the Third Meeting of South American Communist Parties, which was held in the Uruguayan capital from 5 to 7 August.

A final communique was approved and issued by the forum. The forum was attended by representatives of the Communist Party of Cuba, the CPSU, the Sandinist National Liberation Front, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, and INTERNATIONAL magazine, as observers. The representatives of the People's Progressive Party of Guyana could not attend but sent their greetings.

The communique indicates that the general situation in the region, the people's struggle in defense of their sovereignty against the interference of U.S. imperialism and for the achievement of democracy, peace, and the workers' interests were reviewed during the meeting. The parties represented at the meeting achieved considerable success in their analysis of the current complex situation and, based on this analysis, prepared creative resolutions aimed at achieving the people's hopes for significant changes on the continent.

The final document emphasizes that the irreversible character of the Cuban revolution, the strengthening of the Nicaraguan revolution, and the substantial success achieved in the Salvadoran people's heroic struggle confirm the failure of imperialistic U.S. plans for the Central American region. International solidarity, the Guatemala agreements, and the Contadora and Support Groups' efforts represent significant progress toward the achievement of political solutions in Central America.

The meeting participants emphasized the need to strengthen their solidarity with the democratic and revolutionary patriots who struggle for their liberation against U.S. imperialism throughout the continent and the whole world.

The defeat of the fascist dictatorships in Bolivia, Brazil, and Uruguay; the fall of the Argentine dictatorship; the failure of the right-wing forces' efforts in the Ecuadoran elections; the success achieved by the leftist forces in the Mexican elections and their victory in the capital; and the progress achieved in unifying progressive forces from different countries are indications of new possibilities in the struggle to strengthen democracy, the final document indicates.

The document also emphasizes the important role played by communist efforts to attain a mutual understanding with progressive political parties and organizations that represent intellectuals, students, and other social groups. Restructuring in the Soviet Union, the rectification process in Cuba, other renewal processes in various socialist countries, and the abolition of old schemes and routines in theory and practice reinvigorated the communists in their work, the communique states.

The new political mentality will help intensify the struggle for peace. It also allowed the first step toward nuclear disarmament and the signing of the intermediate- and shorter-range missiles agreement. The document adds that there is reason to believe that new progress will be achieved in this sector and that it will allow a definite end to armed conflicts between states. It will also bring the production of nuclear weaponry to an end so that available resources can be used to solve important problems for mankind, especially those of Third World countries.

The communique also indicates that the participants in the Third Meeting of South American Communist Parties agreed on the need to reactivate contacts and exchanges among themselves. They also decided to continue sponsoring similar conferences and stated their belief that these meetings will help strengthen the unity of the revolutionary, democratic, and anti-imperialist movement on the continent.

Delegation's Meetings in Peru Detailed

LD1008155188 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Aug 88 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Guests of Peru"]

[Text] Lima, 5 Aug—The USSR Supreme Soviet delegation headed by P.K. Khabibullayev, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, which is here on a working visit on its way home, has been received by Ronaldo Biaggi Rodriguez, president of the Senate of the Peruvian Congress.

During the talks, the head of the Soviet delegation provided information on the restructuring process taking place in the Soviet Union and the consistent steps which the USSR is taking toward preventing a world nuclear catastrophe. He noted that Soviet foreign policy attaches priority importance to general human values. R. Biaggi Rodriguez stressed that Peru assesses highly the USSR's role and importance in the international arena and the support which it is rendering to the developing countries in various fields. The sides noted the great opportunities for developing Soviet-Peruvian economic ties.

The USSR Supreme Soviet delegation was received by Hector Vargas Haya, president of the Chamber of Deputies of the Republic's Congress. In their talk the Peruvian politician noted the great interest with which his country is following the process of transformations in all spheres of the life of Soviet society. The concept of the new political thinking put forward by the Soviet leader M.S. Gorbachev, he said, is of historical importance. The sides expressed the mutual desire to deepen their varied cooperation on the basis of mutual respect and noninterference. P.K. Khabibullayev noted that the USSR wants to see Peru a developed, flourishing state and wishes the friendly country successes in resolving the numerous complex problems facing it.

The members of the Soviet delegation had a meeting with Andres Townsend Ezcurra, general secretary of the Latin American Parliament. During the conversation, mutual interest was voiced for establishing permanent contacts between the USSR Supreme Soviet and the Latin American Parliament.

Political & Social

PRAVDA on Restructuring Party Apparatus

PM1108094588 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
11 Aug 88 Second Edition p 1

[Editorial: "Restructuring the Party Apparatus. Its Work Must Be Distinguished by Glasnost, Businesslike Efficiency, and Contacts With the Masses"]

[Text] The 19th All-Union CPSU Conference noted that the main specific feature of the historic times we live in is that the CPSU should fully live up to Lenin's concept of the party's leading role in society in terms of not only the content but also the methods of its activity. In this context the conference deemed it necessary to fundamentally restructure the work of the party and all its components in line with the new tasks.

The serious reorganization and renewal will, of course, also affect the apparatus through which elected party organs exercise their political, organizational, and educational functions, carry out work on the implementation and verification of the execution of adopted decisions, and help lower-ranking party links.

The resolution "On Fundamental Guidelines for the Restructuring of the Party Apparatus," adopted by the CPSU Central Committee July Plenum, is an important step toward the practical implementation of this task. It envisages a clear-cut and consistent demarcation of the functions of party committees and state and economic organs, the overcoming of parallelism and duplication in their work, radical changes in the structure and qualitative improvements in the quality of the party apparatus, and its strict subordination and accountability to elected party collegiums.

Thus, a lot of responsible work lies ahead and, typically, it brooks no delay. The reorganization of the CPSU Central Committee apparatus and the apparatus of local party organs must be implemented already this fall, before year's end. This must result in a substantial reduction of the total number of workers.

It is well known that the plenum resolution instructed the Central Committee Politburo to examine and approve the new structure of the Central Committee apparatus and to determine the basic components of local party organs' apparatus. All structural and staff questions concerning party committees and institutions and arising as a result of changing functions will be resolved at local level. When performing this work it will be necessary to constantly bear in mind its main objective—to step up the political nature of the leadership exercised by party committees, to resolutely reject command and edict methods, and to assert democratic principles of party and social life.

The time when the party apparatus, in the conditions created by the administrative edict system, felt entitled to take charge of everything and everybody, when the "prestige of the post" and the "cult of office" often gained the upper hand over a political leader's genuine prestige, are irretrievably receding into the past. But judging by the editorial office mailbag, the effect of recurrences of the command style, bureaucratic diktat, and incompetent and irresponsible interference by apparatus workers in the activity of economic organs and scientific and cultural institutions can still be felt quite often. This is why it is so important to swiftly overcome the flawed practice of "pressure," to carefully study and sum up the experience of party work in the new conditions, and to make its best examples universally available. The apparatus' work must be increasingly distinguished by glasnost, a critical mood, and daily contacts with the masses.

In this context it would be useful to look at the results achieved by party committees working without sector departments, which has been going on for quite a while now by way of an experiment in several Moscow raykoms and a number of other cities and rayons.

Here, for example, is how Communists assessed the new-style work of the apparatus of the Leninskiy party raykom in Orsk city. First, the "noncompartmentalized" structure put an end to the situation in which each department and, through it, the raykom, viewed life and its problems from the narrow sectoral standpoint. Second, the figure of the inspector, who is in fact a responsible party worker and not a small child at someone else's beck and call, has really been highlighted. Third, the features of the old style—excessive speechmaking, paperwork, and telephone leadership—have begun to be eradicated more quickly. And they are being replaced by real-life political work with people required to have considerable knowledge, the ability to convince, and sincere tact.

In brief, the advantages are obvious but the responsibilities are greater. Studying all the pluses and minuses of the experiment in good time and drawing the necessary conclusions means facilitating the restructuring of the apparatus and ensuring its successful work.

Much in this work will be determined by the standard and preparedness of cadre personnel. Local reports show that the new demands are causing some party apparatus workers, including leaders, to be uncertain in their work and sometimes even confused. In Maritime Kray, for example, eight party committee secretaries responsible for ideological work submitted their resignations at virtually the same time. Fear of the large-scale and profound work ahead is another factor in such cases, as is the realization of the limited nature of their own knowledge and skill and their failure to match the spirit and demands of the times.

All this obliges party committees, their bureaus, and secretariats to pay greater attention to the selection and promotion of people to the apparatus. The main criteria are political maturity, competence, high moral qualities, and the desire and ability to organize work in the new way. The report and election campaign that is beginning in the party will undoubtedly help to infuse the apparatus with fresh forces and strengthen various party leadership components.

Henceforth the primary party organization's recommendation is the essential condition in the promotion of workers to the party apparatus. Incidentally, the primary party organization is entitled to ask for a Communist whom it recommended to be released from his post if the latter has failed to justify that confidence. This considerably increases the worker's responsibility not only to the elected organ to whose apparatus he belongs but also to the Communists who nominated him.

The primary party organizations of the party committees' apparatus must take an active part in structural, cadre, and functional restructuring. Who if not they should support and develop workers' initiative, establish in the collective an atmosphere of party comradeliness and equality of all Communists before the CPSU Rules, and eradicate elements of bureaucracy and manifestations of immodesty, servility, and communist arrogance.

In the restructuring process special attention should be paid to apparatus workers who have been released. For the most part these are people with considerable experience in party, economic, and ideological work, specialists who know how to organize thing. Many of them undoubtedly can be employed successfully to strengthen important sections of state and social activity and production. They will also find a place in the soviet apparatus and in people's control organs.

The party apparatus is an integral part of the organizational structure of the party. Relieving it of administrative and economic functions and switching the emphasis to political methods of leadership will make it an active force of restructuring.

Armenia Ponders Lessons of Recent Events

PM1008104588 Moscow SOVETSKAYA KULTURA in Russian 9 Aug 88 p 2

[Own correspondent Iosif Verdiyan article: "Bridges of Friendship. Seeing Is Believing!"]

[Text] "The experience of the last few months proves to us that, under the conditions of democratization and glasnost which produce substantial changes in the situation, party, soviet, and ideological cadres must be able to act in acute, unusual, and sometimes even conflict situations and to engage in blunt polemics."

(From the speech by 19th all-union party conference delegate S. Arutyunyan, first secretary of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee)

Armenian SSR—Leafing through items published on the events around Nagorno- Karabakh, I catch myself thinking that, in terms of style and headlines alike, they resemble reports from a theater of military actions more than anything else.... It is obviously more than just the fact that the maintenance of public order was stepped up in the cities mentioned in the reports. The pulse of the body politic is beating faster, its blood pressure is rising.... Logic is rejected in the heat of passions, naive souls are fed by illusions, and mirages in a desert that is scorched by emotions are perceived as realities.

But life, as always, taught us a lesson: As you lose your illusions you gain political realism. It took 5 nervous months, the bloodshed that night in Sumgait, the hunger strikes in Yerevan's Theater Square, the strikes, and the airport blockade skillfully organized by instigators. Let's be honest: The uncertainty only fueled tension. During the days of the hunger strike proclaimed by a group of people in Yerevan, I asked Hero of Socialist Labor Garnik Manasyan, leader of a construction workers' team:

"What prompted you to take this extreme step?"

"I proclaimed a hunger strike so that these kids," and he pointed at a group of demonstrators sitting opposite him, "can go home. I want to bring our wishes to Moscow's notice. They"—my interlocutor pointed upwards—"don't know, not a single newspaper has written about it."

Our conversation took place at a time when central publications had suddenly gone silent. Whenever there were interruptions of glasnost in the coverage of Karabakh events, a tidal wave of rumors and gossip swelled. Rumors were pregnant with drama, as if there were not enough real dramas. Examples? Look at Sumgait, look at Masis with the case of workers being poisoned, look at Zvartnots Airport.... There can be no doubt that glasnost must operate without a break and at full speed.

A moralizer's pose is repugnant, but it must be admitted in all conscience that some of my professional colleagues failed to rise to the situation: First they played up to downright maximalists and advocates of extreme views, then they took a sharp turn in the opposite direction—classing the whole people en masse as extremists and nationalists. There was a long-lasting muted tussle between the mass media in the two republics, a tug-of-war between teams of historians and jurists.

Approximately 2 months ago the "Vremya" program broadcast a report from the city of Shusha in Karabakh. Television reporter B. Baryshnikov was interviewing war veterans, mainly Azerbaijanis. Let me quickly qualify this statement: This is not in the least objectionable,

veterans deserve our highest respect and love. All of them. But there was one disappointing omission, possibly stemming from ignorance. While speaking of the part Shusha residents played in the Great Patriotic War, Baryshnikov did not utter a single word about Nelson Stepanyan, a fellow countryman of those old soldiers and the only man from the Transcaucasus to become twice Hero of the Soviet Union. And that was actually at the time when all Armenia was celebrating the 75th jubilee anniversary of the hero of the Baltic skies.

A trivial matter, you might say. It is not up to me to say, but I know one thing for certain: This omission, even though it might have been indeed a trivial matter, created conditions for a flight of insulted fancy and unintentionally injured national pride.

Let me cite the opinion expressed by G. Pogosyan, first secretary of the Nagorno-Karabakh party obkom, about the program "Four Days in Nagorno-Karabakh," which I read in the newspaper KOMMUNIST: "You have obviously seen the program and probably noticed that it included two sequences in which I was involved. I have to say that what you heard on television (I am talking about the interview I gave) was arbitrarily taken out of the context of my entire statement, which lasted approximately 23 minutes, (and I was shown on television speaking for only 3 minutes). Unfortunately, the material presented out of context was indeed susceptible to being interpreted arbitrarily, in any way you liked. And this is what actually happened...."

PRAVDA wrote a few days ago about another instance of journalistic inaccuracy committed by Central Television in its coverage of events around Nagorno-Karabakh. There is no need to extend this sad list. It is far more pleasant to recall G. Borovik's profound and meaningful program "Position" which, incidentally, was the first to mention the subject of compromise, of a search for mutually acceptable solutions by the two fraternal republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia.

A compromise can be reached in the course of a lively and direct dialogue between the sides in conflict, as part of their striving to understand one another. To discover the truth.

Composers Martyn Vartazaryan and Konstantin Petrosyan propose:

"Let us organize a television linkup between Yerevan, Baku, and Stepanakert, maybe even bring in Moscow. We must hear each other out and reach common understanding."

There is a multitude of methods and forms to rebuild the broken contacts and bridges of friendship. We don't need a bad world. We need a good world so that the engraved golden words about brotherhood can be recast into weighty ingots of deeds.

Let us admit: By no means is everyone in Armenia enthusiastic about the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium decision on the Nagorno-Karabakh problem. But sober minds realize that this decision represents the truth of the present historical moment, a truth which will mature, be enriched, and spread in the process of the honing and tuning of the economic, sociopolitical, and cultural mechanism in Karabakh, Armenia, and Azerbaijan, as well as throughout the country, which is living through profound transformations. Let us read carefully the words spoken by the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee at the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium session: "It is impossible to consider any question resolved once and for all. Every question has its own dynamics and development, and this applies also to the question of national relations." Here is the thought; let us advance further. Further....

A guarantee of this is contained in the constructive proposals by the participants in the session and in the specially established Soviet of Nationalities commissions which are to study the questions with subsequent examination by the supreme organ of people's power.

It was said at that session that the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast lacks the capacity to fully assimilate the funds allocated by the union government because its construction industry has a weak material and technical base. Literally a few days ago Yerevan's Mashtotskiy Party Raykom approved an initiative by "Aviastroy" Trust workers calling for participation in the implementation of the program for Karabakh's socioeconomic development as envisaged by the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers resolution. This initiative was backed by many labor collectives and planning institutes. For example, the "Zaktruboprovodstroy" Trust pledged to build a freeway linking Goris, Lachin, and Stepanakert, thus assimilating R5 million. The future will bring the opening of branches by major associations and the economic linkage of two regions pulling toward each other. Naturally, as M.S. Gorbachev emphasized, there is not even a thought of isolating Azerbaijan's Armenian population from Armenia in the sphere of culture, education, information, and spiritual development as a whole. The heart's memory of course covers geography, but it covers history two and three times as much. This also applies, of course, to Azerbaijanis living in Armenia.

Now it is up to Armenia's creative organizations and its ministries and departments. Here is a wide bridgehead to apply patriotic aspirations. The republic's Union of Cinematography Workers suggested the convening of an extraordinary plenum of combined creative unions. Armenia's masters of cinematography expressed confidence that every citizen of the republic and the entire people as a whole will find within themselves the strength to overcome the protracted crisis. They called for energies to be redirected along social lines and for

help to be given to Armenia's renewed leadership in the struggle against corrupt elements, the underground economy, and the uncontrolled spread of favoritism and nepotism.

M. Minasb'yan, recently elected first secretary of the Yerevan Party Gorkom, also drew attention to this during a conversation with me:

"The situation does not allow us to fully embark on restoring the principles of social justice and switch to a decisive offensive against antirestructuring forces which, I am sure, are still rubbing their hands with glee. This is holding us up a bit. We will correct the situation and, with joint efforts, advance the cause of restructuring."

"And what is your attitude toward rallies?"

"We have seriously discussed this question in the party gorkom. Rallies as a form of social activism by the masses must advance restructuring, but they must not be of a destructive nature. The people are being invited to take part in the elaboration of a broad program to normalize the situation, to participate in democratization."

Gorkom secretaries or deputy gorispolkom chairmen already appear twice weekly on republic television and answer questions on a direct telephone line. The objective is to provide truthful information on current events, to combat rumors, and to encourage a broad dialogue on ways to improve party and soviet work.

A few days ago the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee Bureau discussed the tasks of party gorkoms and raykoms and primary party organizations in the republic in connection with the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium resolution (on the Armenian SSR and Azerbaijan SSR Supreme Soviet Presidiums' resolutions on the Nagorno-Karabakh question). It was noted that "the Karabakh committee's activities have gone beyond the framework of legality and have acquired a politically harmful nature."

The committee's composition is not homogeneous. It does contain forces which, in my opinion, ought to be brought into a dialogue. I personally saw one "Karabakh" member at a rally attended by thousands of people telling off some political dimwit who was screaming provocative slogans into the microphone. An isolated episode, but it shows that it is necessary to separate the wheat from the chaff and to mercilessly expose those who are guilty of immoderation and at times of downright political demagoguery.

When poetess Silva Kaputikyan addressed a rally and called for the strike to be abandoned, she was hissed off by a small group which, as a matter of fact, always occupies the "front rows" at rallies. "I will nevertheless have my say," she retorted to that crowd. "I have more right to speak on behalf of the people than any one of those obstructing me."

The strike was and still is being condemned by eminent representatives of the intelligentsia, by people respected in the republic. It was also condemned by Catholicos Vazgen I, supreme patriarch of all Armenia, in his vivid speech on local television. Even though he is a wise old man, there were some people who raised doubts about his sincerity.

...In the last few days rallies have switched from Theater Square to Matenadaran, the ancient manuscripts archive. Speakers stand in front of sculptured figures of great Armenian thinkers of ancient times, facing the monument to Mesrop Mashtots, founder of the Armenian written language, whose raised hand seems to warn against hasty speeches and steps. Let us recall the first words written in the Armenian alphabet in the first Armenian school founded in the Karabakh region: "To learn wisdom and precepts, to understand the dicta of reason."

These words are carved in a basalt wall surrounding a monument. Those who said them would turn in their graves.... They were, after all, said in the fifth century.

Exiled Armenian To Continue Campaign

LD1008105288 Hamburg DPA in German 0953 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Bonn, (DPA)—The exiled Armenian civil rights campaigner Paruyr Ayrikyan has made his objective the expansion of his organization, "Association for National Self-Determination," even if he is not allowed to return to the Soviet Union. At a news conference in Bonn, Ayrikyan deplored the shortage of support on the part of millions of exiled Armenians, particularly in the United States.

Ayrikyan, released from solitary confinement by the Soviet secret service at the end of July and taken to Ethiopia, intends to emigrate to California, should he not be successful in returning within 2 months. The family of the 39-year-old translator and father of three children, which is staying in Moscow at the moment, is already in possession of an exit permit.

Ayrikyan persevered with the objective of his opposition party to remove Armenia from the Soviet state. However, at the news conference he called the description "nationalist" an insult. The glasnost policies of Communist Party leader Mikhail Gorbachev initially worked in favor of the public extension of the unrest in Armenia. Now, it is to be suppressed once more.

'Great Demand' for Republican Press in Armenia

PM1008133388 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 6 Aug 88 First Edition p 6

[Special correspondent G. Ovcharenko "Reportage From Yerevan": "Why the Newspapers Are in Great Demand"]

[Text] It is difficult nowadays to buy not only central but also republican papers in Armenia. The line for them forms early in the morning. People today are reading

with special interest the announcements of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee and the republic's Council of Ministers. And this is no accident: The republic's leadership has engaged in earnest in the solution of the questions which primarily perturb people.

These questions can be heard at every street corner, as they say, and they are also being put in writing. "Why has restructuring still failed to affect trade, consumer services, and transport?" R. Khachatryan from Yerevan writes to the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee. "Rudeness, deception, and self-seeking prevail here as before." He is echoed by P. Saakyan: "In trade overt short weight and speculation continue, transport is operating very badly, inspectors of the State Automobile Inspectorate and the Society for the Struggle Against the Embezzlement of Socialist Property engage in extortion, and the Yerevan municipal economy is in total ruins...." And here is R. Mirzoyan's opinion: "There is a mass of unresolved problems in health care. There is a shortage of hospitals, polyclinics, and convalescent centers...."

"People are right: A mass of problems has accumulated," agrees S. Arutyunyan, first secretary of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee. "You can understand that they cannot be resolved in a month or even a year. But we have already selected the priority avenues of work which should lead to the main thing—the restoration of social justice."

Specificity, efficiency, promptness, and glasnost—these words can describe the style in which the republic's party organization is now working. For instance, Suren Gurgenovich, inviting representatives of trade and the agro-industrial complex with him, recently visited Yerevan's markets. He heard many complaints. That same evening a conference was held at the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee, which examined measures to improve supplies of fruit and vegetables to the Yerevan population. The talk was tough. S. Arutyunyan showed the party raykom secretaries and ministry and department leaders his "purchases": tomatoes suitable only for pelting indifferent bureaucrats, tiny apricots with an "exotic" price, and similar exhibits.

The next day the republican press published a report on the conference. And you should have seen the interest with which the people of Yerevan read it. But they did not only read and discuss it: S. Arutyunyan's assistant, L. Chakhmakhchyan, did not have time to write down the proposals for improving the city's provision of fruit and vegetables as they came in from Yerevan people over the telephone.

"Do you know what is gratifying?" Levon Khorenovich asked, and answered himself: "The number of telephone calls and letters with complaints has declined, but there are more with constructive proposals. People are beginning to believe that their words are being heeded."

Yesterday the republic's inhabitants received yet further confirmation of this—the press published simultaneously two resolutions of the republic's Communist Party Central Committee and the Armenian SSR Council of Ministers: on serious shortcomings in the use of boarding houses, dachas, and other leisure bases; and on the transfer of government dachas, reception centers, and cottages belonging to the Armenian Council of Ministers Administration of Affairs to the republic's ministries of health and social security. From these former "special leisure institutions" for high-ranking people will be created centers for the convalescent treatment of children, the treatment and leisure of Patriotic War invalids, internationalist servicemen, and orphan children. Boarding houses and leisure centers and bases belonging to various ministries and departments, which are so far operating only in the summer months and not at full strength, will now be used more effectively.

And again the republican newspapers have been in great demand and once again the reports on their front pages have attracted universal attention....

Health Ministry Given Armenian Officials' Homes

PM1108100388 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Aug 88 Morning Edition p 1

[Own correspondent S. Bablumyan article: "Dachas Changing Hands"]

[Text] Yerevan—Is it possible to considerably increase the number of beds in medical and therapeutic establishments and rest homes without commissioning new projects for this purpose? A resolution recently adopted by the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee and the Armenian Council of Ministers makes it possible to answer this question affirmatively.

It has been published in the local newspapers, and everyone who has read it is perhaps talking about the same thing: At long last the first steps to restore social justice have been taken in the republic.

Over the last decade a multitude of very attractive houses and "cottages" whose doors are locked for the greater part of the year have sprung up in picturesque, secluded corners of Armenia. They are used by a narrow circle of people. These are the so-called government dachas, reception houses, and other such establishments. They are now in the hands of party and labor veterans, leading workers, and scientific and cultural workers.

"One of the government dachas," R. Megrabyan, deputy administrator of the Armenian SSR Council of Ministers, said, "has been handed over to the republic's Ministry of Health. A restorative treatment center for children is going to be organized here. And there are plans to use another four cottages belonging to the sanatorium of the Armenian Health Ministry's fourth administration for giving treatment and rest facilities to orphans."

Internationalist servicemen and Great Patriotic War invalids will be able to mend their health in a building which, until quite recently, was used as a school for improving the qualifications of party and soviet workers. And an aesthetic education center for children and teenagers is going to be housed in several comfortable cottages in the resort city of Dilizhan. The republic's health and social insurance ministries have been instructed to alter the premises to suit their new functions.

Azerbaijan Aktivs Discuss CPSU Resolution
NC1108065588 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri 1600 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Azerbaijan SSR party and economic aktivs held a meeting on 8 August with the CPSU Central Committee propaganda group at the work palace [emek sarayi] of the Azerbaijan SSR Council of Trade Unions. The meeting concerned efforts to explain the materials [materialler] and decisions of the 19th All-Union CPSU Conference and the June 1988 CPSU Central Committee Plenum. Vladislav Kolesnikov, member of the CPSU Central Committee, delegate to the 19th All-Union CPSU Conference, and minister of the USSR Electronics Industry, who is also the head of the CPSU Central Committee propaganda group, read a report. (?Praznov), an adviser affiliated with the CPSU Central Committee Economics Department, addressed the convocation on matters concerning social and economic development on the basis of the reconstruction course.

The meeting noted that the 19th All-Union CPSU Conference was an important development in political life in the Soviet Union [words indistinct].

It was also noted that the resolutions drawn up and approved by the all-union conference of the country's Communists were of great importance for the future of the Soviet Union. Concrete measures must be taken by each and every party and soviet worker and economic official for the effective realization of the decisions adopted by the all-union conference and the June 1988 CPSU Central Committee Plenum. Work in that direction also requires active participation by the masses in efforts to increase the pace of social and economic development, realize economic reforms, including reforms in the political system of Soviet society, broaden the process of democratization and openness, and motivate each and every individual to participate in the administration of the country.

Latvia's 'New Economic Doctrine' Outlined
LD1008043588 Moscow TASS in English 0410 GMT 10 Aug 88

[From "News From Soviet Baltic Republics"]

[Text] Riga August 10 [dateline as received]—LATINFORM correspondent Tatyana Kovalskaya writes:

For the first time in Soviet Latvia's history agriculture will become the top priority in economic development and push backstage the former orientation at boosting industrial output.

This new economic doctrine is now being discussed by the republic's population. It was outlined in the local press by Anton Bril, a secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Latvia. He wrote that the change of economic priorities was "demanded by the situation and assisted by perestroyka".

Although Latvia has the highest per capita output of industrial goods in the Soviet Union it cannot produce enough foodstuffs for its population. This is the more paradoxical, Bril says, since "Latvian bacon, cheese and butter have been famous for their high quality already since the past century".

The 55-year-old party leader is also the chairman of a recently formed group of consultants on ways of improving food supplies in the republic.

"We have put in a lot of work in the creation of our platform", Bril went on. "In most general form we have outlined three main directions of work. First and foremost we must develop construction in rural areas and create a construction industry for this specific purpose. Secondly, it is necessary to revive small-scale processing enterprises that were closed down during the years when gigantism was the vogue and huge but insufficiently effective livestock complexes were set up. And, thirdly, it is necessary to create zonal machine-building for intensive technologies in plant breeding and for the comprehensive mechanisation of farms".

Anton Bril asked the republic's population of three million to supplement this concept so that the end result would be "an optimal model of reorganising agricultural production".

The proposed form of arriving at decisions does not mean that Anton Bril does not have his own position as a party secretary and simply as an individual. In conditions of perestroyka people have become more exacting and even categorical in assessing official leaders, but Bril has never been named among those party functionaries who have distanced themselves from the life of ordinary people. Before becoming secretary he graduated from the Latvian Agricultural Academy and served as minister of agriculture and minister of land improvement. He knows from his own experience that administrative pressure is no way of advancing agriculture. What is needed now, Anton Bril says, "is more glasnost and more information".

Information does a lot of good, he says, and only frankness convinces people. In his opinion a half of Latvia's population lives in Riga only because there is a shortage of modern housing and services in the countryside.

Statistics show, however, that the exodus of the farming population to the cities has stopped and a reverse trend is beginning. Many former farmers and even people who have lived all their lives in towns are showing interest in going to the countryside and working there on a lease contract basis.

There are more than 9,000 abandoned homesteads in Latvia and these people could use them. Of course, these homesteads are in need of repair but the main thing is to provide guarantees to those who want to work on leased land that there will be no return to past practices. There are many people in Latvia who have faith in the irreversibility of perestroyka. Some three hundred teams are already working on a contract basis and cooperatives are being formed on a fundamentally new basis. But in order to create legal and economic guarantees for genuine perestroyka in the countryside it is necessary to work out the procedure by which lands of collective farms and state farms will be handed over to individual lessees for a lengthy period of time or even in perpetuity.

Estonian Popular Front 'Taking Shape'

PM1008114088 Moscow MOSCOW NEWS in English No 31, 31 Jul 88 p 16

[Leonid Miloslavskiy and Nina Belyayeva article: "The Popular Front. Lessons From Estonia's Experience in Pro-Perestroyka Civic Initiative"]

[Text] The Beginning [subhead]

It was action first, then words: "The Popular Front". By that time the civic initiative in Estonia had some real achievements to its credit: An ecologically harmful factory project had been stopped, the idea of switching the republic to complete cost accounting had gained support, creative unions had had a joint plenary meeting calling for change. The words were first voiced on April 13. Appearing on the TV show "Let's Think Again", Economist Edgar Savisaar proposed the formation of a Popular Front, a democratic movement for perestroyka. Later that night the show's participants wrote a declaration on the Popular Front right there in the studio. The next morning a declaration signed by 16 people was sent to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Estonia and the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR. Two weeks later the first responses to the new idea were in. The Central Committee meeting supported the Popular Front. Two days later a new word "Rahvarinne" (Popular Front) was spotted on the banners of May Day marchers. Reports started coming in from urban and rural centres on the setting up of support groups.

The Next Step [subhead]

Indrek Toome, secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Estonia:

We have learned the first lesson of perestroyka: Everyone has the right to state his or her opinion. It is time for the next very important step—to translate the energy of the masses into specific actions. We have arrived at the conclusion that unofficial groups and movements, if not unconstitutional, are a normal and natural part of a democratic society.

The Central Committee supported the Popular Front as a movement that ensures that all members of society—students, pensioners, non-party people and religious people—may take part in perestroyka outside the party. Some people were sceptical: What if the PF goes into politics? It did. This is inevitable: Any sphere of our life is politics. Relations between the party and the PF is a different matter. It is to our advantage to let new structures develop independently rather than making them appendages of governmental institutions. I believe that in time the PF will be integrated into the political system with the appropriate amendments in the constitution.

Groups supporting the PF are being set up primarily where perestroyka is proceeding too slowly or not at all. Fronts of perestroyka supporters are being set up where the going is too difficult. The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Estonia has instructed leaders of local party organizations to support and help the PF. But the leading role of the party must not be reduced to issuing decrees and commands. Persuasion is the only acceptable means for the party.

The Question of Power [subhead]

Edgar Savisaar, member of the PF Initiative Centre:

They often ask us about our idea of power. Aren't we planning to substitute for the Soviets? Are we in opposition to the party? What kind of power do we want for ourselves?

The Popular Front is essentially an organized front of the electorate. Undoubtedly, the PF will have a hand in shaping the representative organs, but it has no intention of being a substitute for the Soviets—the constitutional form of people's government. The PF's mission is to ensure continuous feedback between the electorate and the deputies, that those up for election are really trusted by the people. Our aim is to ensure that election campaigns are a meaningful contest of opinions and realistic programmes.

The PF has rejected the idea of being an organization with membership cards and dues in favour of being a real civic movement. Support groups are free to pinpoint and solve issues of immediate importance to the work collective. One cannot just join the PF by voicing support for it. One must have one's own specific programme for action. One must be socially active and show initiative.

As for its leaders, at the moment there are none. There is a temporary PF initiative centre in Tallinn including those who signed the April 13 declaration: lawyers, economists, journalists, representatives of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Estonia and the Republic's Supreme Soviet—40 people in all. The centre's function is to provide information and support for the newly formed groups.

Common Strategy. What About Tactics? [subhead]

Reyn Veydemann, editor-in-chief of "RADUGA" magazine, member of the PF Initiative Centre:

The Popular Front is only taking shape. Suggestions will provide the basis for its programme and rules. These will be published for purposes of discussion. The final version of the programme and the rules will be up for approval by delegates of the support groups this autumn. The PF is already actively working on different aspects of the programme. For instance, getting the republic switched over to cost accounting—one of our top priorities. We should define the PF's place within the political system and put it into the constitution. We should discuss the problems of the reform of school education and get a new book of Estonia's history written. These are grand tasks taking lots of effort.

A Sudden Dash Forward [subhead]

Marju Lauristin, head of the Journalism Department at Tartu State University, member of the PF Initiative Centre:

To an outside observer, the explosion of political activity in Estonia might seem inexplicable. But the movement's origins are clear.

The decision taken by the union ministry last year to build a phosphorite mine in the Rakvere District threatened the ecological balance of the entire republic. There was a wave of protest—the mass media, scientists, and spontaneously formed opposition groups joined in. The idea of cost accounting was then just catching on in Estonia. It took three months to get it recognized and five months to defeat the phosphorite mining plans.

Chances are in another part of the country our problems wouldn't have generated such enthusiasm or such a powerful movement as the Popular Front. Unfortunately, the national aspect of the problem is often distorted. People talk about an "Estonian bomb" and say Estonia is a nation of dissidents. But the political activity in Estonia has nothing to do with nationalism.

The historical experience of self-government is reflected in the fact that our people today clearly identify themselves with the problems of the state and society as a whole. By virtue of our common cultural traditions, there isn't a wide gap between ordinary people and intellectuals. If a person feels a part of society and responsible for what is happening to society, this speaks of a long democratic experience.

What are the expectations of those who responded so enthusiastically to the idea of the Popular Front? What if they heard a call on TV to set up a national front? I'm sure the majority of Estonians wouldn't support the idea. The republic has political groups of a nationalistic trend. Their demands are based on the fact that Estonia was illegally joined to the USSR, so, they say it is necessary to go back to the point of departure. If we are to share the position of these groups we would be obliged to recall that many centuries ago Estonia was conquered by Livonian knights. If one is to be consistent in the search for the point of departure, one should destroy Tallinn built by the invaders.

One can't reject one's own history. The situation should be assessed from the positions of historical realism. The Popular Front's view is that the constitution envisages the right of the republics for self-determination including their withdrawal from the union. But we should make the Soviet Union a country where no one would wish to withdraw.

So why don't nationalists enjoy broad popular support? There is a good peasant trait in the Estonian character—common sense. If an observant and careful person were asked to tie a knot that had been cut, he would refuse.

The Popular Front has solved the national question for itself. To achieve prosperity for our small republic we must unite all those who live in Estonia and regard it as their home. [Lauristin ends]

Before departing Tallinn we overheard this snatch of conversation at the railway station:

"Is your son still going to dances?"

"Kids don't go dancing anymore. Now they're waving flags."

The Popular Front has quickly become part of everyday life. It has spawned over 800 support groups involving a total of nearly 60,000. Some people are still making up their minds. But people going in for politics instead of dancing don't amaze anyone anymore.

What's instructive about the Estonian experience?

First, the trust in the initiative which, though not agreed on and approved in advance, was calmly accepted as a reality to be reckoned with.

Second, the necessity for a constructive, long-term programme capable of rallying the people for serious work. It would have been much harder to set up the PF without the idea of cost accounting.

Third, as a result of the right to economic, political and cultural self-government, people treat each other with greater tolerance and respect. Conflicts over national issues are rare in Estonia today.

Fourth, a unique form of a democratic association has been proposed.

Lithuanian Ecological Efforts Reported
LD1008044988 Moscow TASS in English 0414 GMT 10 Aug 88

[From "News From Soviet Baltic Republics"]

[Excerpts] Vilnius August 10 [dateline as received]— ELTA correspondent Saljamonas Vaintraubas writes:

The policy of glasnost has become such an integral part of the life of Soviet people that a protest meeting of ecologists held outside the gate of Azotas, a big firm producing mineral fertilizers in the small Lithuanian town of Jonava, did not surprise anyone.

However, one could be really surprised by the fact that the Azotas firm was one of the sponsors of the meeting. Together with the Lithuanian Komsomol, a youth organization of the republic, it financed a trip in defense of natural environment organized by the informal ecological group Atgaja (Revival).

Enthusiasts, sometimes whole families of them, travel by car, by bicycle, by boat and by raft, organize meetings and discussions in cities and villages. [passage omitted]

Petras Staskunas, mayor of Kaunas, not only shares the concern of the public, but also takes steps to improve the situation as representative of soviet power. He said, among other things, that "it has been decided to close several enterprises whose function is especially detrimental to natural environement, specifically a plant producing plumbing fixtures with a foundry, and a number of others".

It was suggested spontaneously in Kaunas, as it often happens at rallies, to proclaim the construction of a complex of purification installations for the city's waste water worth 100 million roubles to be a project of republican importance to be realized by all the Lithuanian people. Apart from it, speakers at the meeting demanded that the construction of the third power unit of the Ignalina nuclear power plant whose work could be detrimental to the ecological situation in the region should not be resumed.

The Atgaja society created a year ago set itself the priority task of studying thoroughly the ecological situation in the republic, keeping the public informed of it, learning by themselves and explaining to others what is to be done for protecting natural environment and participating personally, wherever it is possible, in the elimination of sorces of pollution. Atgaja is actively fulfilling its mission.

Ukraine Publishing Official Pashchenko Retires
AU1108103388 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 7 Aug 88 p 1

[Unattributed report: "In the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium"]

[Text] The Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium has relieved Comrade A.Ya. Pashchenko of the duties of chairman of the Ukrainian SSR State Committee for Publishing Houses, Printing Plants, and the Book Trade, in connection with his retirement on pension.

New Chairman Named
AU1108103988 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 7 Aug 88 p 1

["A Decree of the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium"]

[Text] The Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium resolves to appoint Comrade Yuriy Pavlovich Dyachenko as chairman of the Ukrainian SSR State Committee for Publishing Houses, Printing Plants, and the Book Trade.

[Signed] V. Shevchenko, chairman, and N. Khomenko, secretary of the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

City of Kiev, 5 August 1988.

Born on 27 May 1937 into the family of a serviceman, Yuriy Pavlovich Dyachenko is a Ukrainian and has been a CPSU member since 1963. He has higher education, having graduated in 1964 from the Journalism Department of the T.G. Shevchenko State University in Kiev.

He began his career in 1958 and worked as an assembler on the Darnitsa heat and power plant as a typesetter, a corrector, an editor, a production manager, acting chief of the editorial board, and chief editor of the Kiev State University's publishing house. From 1968 to 1974 he was on the staff of the Ukrainian SSR Council of Ministers, and from 1974 to 1984 he was a consultant and chief of the sector for publishing houses, printing plants, and the book trade in the Propaganda and Agitation Department of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee. From January 1984 he was a deputy, and from June 1984 first deputy chairman of the Ukrainian SSR State Committee for Publishing Houses, Printing Plants, and the Book Trade.

He is the bearer of the Badge of Honor Order and of three medals, and is an Honored Cultural Worker of the Ukrainian SSR.

Ukraine Cinematography Apparatus Abolished

AU1108103488 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 7 Aug 88 p 1

["A Decree of the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium"]

[Text] The Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium resolves to abolish the Ukrainian SSR State Committee for Cinematography.

[Signed] V. Shevchenko, chairman, and N. Khomenko, secretary of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Presidium.

City of Kiev, 5 August 1988.

Trunk of Firearms Found in Moscow Apartment

LD1008180988 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 10 Aug 88

[From the news bulletin presented by Viktor Levin]

[Text] Here is a report on something completely different. A TASS correspondent has entitled it "An Arsenal in a Trunk." I would put it rather more strongly. But this is not the point.

Well, a trunk full of firearms has been shown to a TASS correspondent in the Moscow Criminal Investigation Department. This arsenal came into the department's possession from the apartment of a Muscovite who admitted that he had been storing the weapons at his cronies' request. In the trunk were 1 Colt pistol, 3 Mauser guns, 1 (Nagant) revolver, more than 2,000 rounds of assorted caliber, 3 magazines for a Kalashnikov machinegun, 2 bayonets, 1 hunting knife, and foreign handcuffs. In addition a (Menz) revolver, a helmet with a swastika, a World War II service cap of a German officer, many pictures from foreign catalogues of firearms and other weapons, and a picture of the suitcase's owner bearing a machinegun and dressed in a uniform almost identical to that of an officer of the Hitlerite army were found in the possession of the owner himself, who is a 30-year-old worker at a factory in the capital. So there is reason to believe that the penchant for weapons was not fortuitous.

The Chief Internal Affairs Directorate of the Moscow Gorispolkom reports that an investigation of the case is being carried out.

Forest Fires Burn 130,000 Hectares in Far East

LD1008202588 Moscow World Service in English 2000 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Big fires caused by unprecedented hot weather are blazing in the dense forests in the Soviet Far East. Efforts to localize them have so far been unsuccessful and they have spread over 130,000 hectares of woodland. The fires threaten population centers, power transmission lines, and a railway.

Tornado Hits Village in Chita Oblast

OW1008141488 Moscow Television Service in Russian 0830 GMT 10 Aug 88

[A. Bardo video report from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] A tornado of enormous destructive force passed over the eastern regions of Chita Oblast.

The path of the tornado was mainly across the desert. However, the tornado did pass one settlement, the Sarbaktuy village. Never before having encountered such a natural phenomenon, the villagers, for a 10-minute period, lived through many anxieties.

The giant funnel, which was approximately 150 meters high and 80 meters across, embraced living quarters, shops, a club, a medical facility, a grain storage area, and a [word indistinct]. They were all rendered useless. Everything was destroyed almost to its foundation.

The situation was made worse by a heavy rain accompanied by high winds and hail which lasted for 20 minutes. By a lucky coincidence there were no deaths although eight people were injured, three of whom were hospitalized.

Preliminary estimates put the damage at half a million roubles. Villagers are being provided with necessary food supplies, medicine, essential goods, and building materials.

Economic

Report on AUCCTU Plenum Proceedings

PM1008131588 Moscow TRUD in Russian 7 Aug 88 p 1

[Unattributed "Information Report on AUCCTU Plenum"]

[Text] The Third AUCCTU Plenum continued work in Moscow yesterday.

Taking part in the discussion of the questions "On Trade Unions' Tasks Arising From the Decisions of the 19th All-Union CPSU Conference" and "On the Improvement of the Structure of the USSR's Trade Unions and the Reduction of the Staffs of the Trade Union Organs' Apparatus" were: A.D. Shirokopoyas, chairman of the Krasnodar Kray Trade Union Council; M.A. Tolstobrov, foreman of an open hearth mill at the "Krivorozhstal" metallurgical combine named for V.I. Lenin in Dnepropetrovsk Oblast; T.Sh. Dadasheva, teacher at Baku's No 19 school; N.P. Simochatov, chairman of the Electric Power Station and Electrical Industry Workers Union Central Committee; R.M. Sultanov, chairman of the Ufa Oil Refinery Trade Union Committee; V.V. Panina, a performer at the Komissarzhevskaya theater in Leningrad; M. Salikhov, chairman of the Tajik Republic Trade Union Council; M.A. Chzhen, chairman of the

Kokchetav Oblast Trade Union Council; M.B. Shadyyeva, chairman of the Samarkand Oblast Trade Union Council; I.A. Shchepetov, chief of the Volga River United Steamship Company; S.A. Akopyan, horticulturist of the Oganavanskiy sovkhoz in the Armenian SSR; S.A. Dringyalis, chairman of the Lithuanian Republic Committee of the Machine Building and Instrument Making Workers Union; B.M. Khodyrev, chief of staff of the kray Komsomol shock housing construction site in Nakhodka city, Maritime Kray; E.V. Yenshakov, chairman of the Magadan Oblast Trade Union Council; and S.O. Mukashev, chairman of the Taldy-Kurgan Oblast Trade Union Council.

The plenum adopted resolutions on the questions under discussion.

At this point the AUCCTU plenum ended its work.

Yu.I. Ryzhov, sector chief of the CPSU Central Committee Organizational Party Work Department, and leaders of ministries and departments took part in the plenum's activities.

Leasing, Family Contracts Commended in Trade

AU1008165988 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 3 Aug 88 p 3

[RATAU report: "Applying Leasing Contract in Trade Services"]

[Text] The first results produced by the new, more effective forms of organization and material motivation of labor in trade, particularly leasing and family contracts and ways to widely apply them, were discussed at a recent conference held in the Ukrainian SSR Council of Ministers. Invited to the conference were team leaders and managers of Kiev city retail trade and public catering enterprises working by team, leasing, and family contracts.

It was noted that nearly 40 percent of Kiev public catering enterprises had already changed over to leasing contracts. Work has begun to apply leasing contracts in the retail trade network. Seven collectives in the latter network are already working by family contracts, and 30 enterprises by lease on premises.

In taking the floor, team and trade enterprise leaders shared their experiences in the work by leasing and family contracts, and noted their advantages: a substantial increase in the volume of retail commodity turnover and in labor productivity. It was emphasized that leasing and family contracts were at present the most promising forms of labor organization. They helped to settle problems posed at the July (1988) CPSU Central Committee Plenum: to eliminate waiting lines and stoppages in the trade in goods which are sufficiently available, to make it possible to significantly expand services offered by trade, and to improve the efficiency of trade services to the population.

At the same time attention was called to the fact that, in a number of cases, the new forms of labor organization in trade carved their way with difficulty and ran against complications in provision with goods and against defects in economic relations and contacts with partners. The Ukrainian SSR Ministry of Trade was instructed to take immediate steps to settle problems confronting collectives working by leasing and family contracts, and to ensure that their experience is widespread at the branch's enterprises.

The conference was addressed by Ye.V. Kachalovskiy, Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo member and Council of Ministers first deputy chairman.

Scientists' Article on Foreign Economic Policy

LD1008200288 Moscow TASS in English 1851 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow August 10 TASS—The intensive restructuring of foreign economic relations of the Soviet Union is going on. The need for the dramatic reorganization was brought about by serious deformations that took shape in the period from the 60s to the 80s. It is at that time that the foreign economic relations of the USSR ceased to be a means of effectively promoting the country's economic development and turned into a way of making up for all kind of defects and shortages in the national economy. This opinion is expressed in the August issue of the journal MIROVAYA EKONOMIKA I MEZHDUNARODNYYE OTNOSHENIYA (WORLD ECONOMY AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS) by the well-known Soviet scientists Viktor Spandaryan and Nikolay Shmelev.

At present the most important criterion of the effectiveness of foreign economic relations is their contribution to the solution of the main strategic task of Soviet economy—the speeding up of scientific and technological progress and the bringing of products made in the USSR on a level with world standards. The authors of the article believe that with this in view it is necessary, along with the transformations in the national economy which are being carried out today, to consistently put into practice a purpose-oriented program of the restructuring of foreign economic activities. This includes, in the first place, the working out of a system of economic incentives for the development of export, the changing of its structure, the creation of an optimal organizational system of foreign economic activities, a wide use of progressive forms of foreign economic ties. In other words, it is necessary to pass over from a passive to an active policy in the world market that would be in line with the opportunities offered by the economic, scientific and technological potential of the Soviet Union.

At the same time, the scientists do not call for creating a purely export-oriented national economy. They believe that the development of export production should become, in the first place, a means of developing

national economy, increasing the national income, effectively using the advantages of the international division of labour. Taking into consideration the scope of Soviet economy and the enormous internal market of the USSR, the investments in this sphere and the efforts exerted for this purpose will soon pay for themselves.

The radical restructuring of Soviet export depends a great deal on the pace of the development of machine-building. The development program of that industry should be aimed both at meeting the internal demand and increasing exports. This is the most reliable guarantee of ensuring the advanced development of Soviet machine-building. However, this task is far from easy, Soviet economists believe. They recall that the Soviet Union's share in the world export of machinery and equipment was reduced from 3.2 per cent in 1970 to 2.1 per cent in 1985. In order to restore the positions of the Soviet Union in the world market of machinery and equipment, the increment of Soviet export should exceed by 1.5-2 times, at least till the year 2000, the pace of the growth of world trade in those products.

Of course, the article continued, no one is going to welcome the USSR on that market, it is filled to capacity. This is why one should take into account that when expanding their deliveries of manufactured goods, Soviet exporters are sure to come up against competition, trade and political obstacles on the part of developed capitalist countries and "new industrial states".

Agricultural

Non-Chernozem Zone Harvest Progress Noted

LD1008204588 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] The focus of harvesting has moved to the Russian non-Chernozem zone. According to the USSR State Statistics Committee, by 8 August grains and pulses, without corn, had been cut on more than 53 million hectares in the country. The picking of vegetables, lifting of early potatoes, gathering of berries and fruit, and preparation of fields for the sowing of winter crops are in progress. The laying-in of feed is also continuing at the farms. By the beginning of the 2d week of August, 64 million tonnes of hay and nearly 69 million tonnes of haylage had been laid in for farming units. Many farms in Kazakhstan and Siberia, where so far feed stocks do not exceed last year's level, are lagging behind.

Changes in Agro-Industrial Work Viewed

LD1008153588 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1145 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Interview with Gennadiy Vasilyevich Kulic, first deputy chairman of the RSFSR State Agro-Industrial Committee, by our correspondent Natalya Vartanyan; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Vartanyan] Gennadiy Vasilyevich, as we all know, we have been having quite complicated weather conditions—drought, rains—but how are the republic's land workers coping with urgent work today?

[Kulik] This year, we have to harvest something on the order of 67 million hectares of cereals. [passage omitted] You know, I would also like to make some personal observations about this year's harvesting. Many interesting new features have appeared in the work of kolkhozes and sovkhozes. Since the beginning of the year, all enterprises of the republic's state agro-industrial committee, have been transferred to full financial autonomy and self-financing. You would not believe how that changed attitudes toward the preservation of crops, upgrading the condition of the grain in order to get a surplus. One more characteristic feature of the present harvest is that nowhere do we find the administrative urge that was in fashion previously, including among us agriculture workers. The specialist, the farm-manager in every field himself determines the work starting time and the methods of harvesting, and does everything in order to harvest the crop. We have to say frankly that nothing awful has happened. After all, many people feared that unless we give commands, no one will do anything, but no, harvesting is proceeding apace at the level of previous years, although there is no administrative bustle.

[Vartanyan] Gennadiy Vasilyevich, All-Union Radio gets quite a number of letters from rural listeners and even from city dwellers who today are concerned about the role of the rayon agro-industrial associations [RAPO's]. For example, the Ichalkovskiy Rayon in Mordovia decided to give up the RAPO and set up a cooperative association there. So what can we say today about the future of RAPO's?

[Kulik] Well, it is a very interesting question. The situation has indeed changed. The rights of the farms have expanded. They do not need whipping up and instructions from above. They have sufficient numbers of specialists. In connection with this, the role of RAPO's rayon management bodies, has to be changed, of course. It was no accident that the general secretary's report to the July plenum of the party Central Committee said that RAPO's had not quite become acclimatized, not quite justified themselves, not done what we had counted on. I think that in the existing situation, under the conditions of the new economic mechanism, we have to seek other forms of management at the rayon link level. Locally there is broad initiative in this respect, and we are pleased that it is coming directly from the kolkhozes and sovkhozes themselves.

[Vartanyan] And now about the new forms of work organization, and first and foremost about the leasing collectives, about their participation in this year's harvest.

[Kulik] Indeed, this too is one of the characteristic features of the present harvest. Some 67 percent of all areas in the republic are assigned to leasing collectives. So far, most varied forms have been operating here: collective contracting, family contracting, and lease contracting equally. This is one of the most important forms giving the machine-operator, worker, and collective

farmer a sense of responsibility, a sense of being the master. Much is being done today in this direction in order to support, to develop these forms of work organization and remuneration.

[Vartanyan] Gennadiy Vasilyevich, you have just mentioned the figure of 67 percent of land being assigned to leasing collectives. How authentic is that figure? The point is that recently I looked up similar data on Kazakhstan's state agro-industrial committee, where it says, in part, that in Guryev, Aktyubinsk, and Ural Oblasts, nearly the whole 100 percent of lands have been leased. Do you not think now that there is a tendency with the lease contracting to exaggerate the number of established collectives and not take into account their real work?

[Kulik] I not only think, but as the man who in the agro-industrial committee is responsible for this matter, as a specialist, as an economist, I am worried about the fact that apparently as far as numbers are concerned everything is well, but the quality, let us be frank about it, is suffering. What is it suffering from? First and foremost, from formalism. In January, they reported that they have established leasing collectives, even signed agreements; 2-3 months later, they fall apart because the main condition—the voluntary nature of the establishment of these collectives—was not insured. That is they had been created not in life, but in an office. As we know, such collectives cannot work.

The second thing we come across is where they select a leasing collective and give it a volume of work that keeps it occupied for only 20-30 percent of the year. What about the rest? After all, these are people; they have to earn. The rest of the time they work as ordinary machine-operators, stockmen, or field workers, which naturally often prevents them from doing the contracting work undertaken according to the agreement.

As soon as they notice that the earnings of a lessee or a member of a contracting collective are higher than the farm average, some sort of anxiety begins. How can it be so? Why? No one wants to compare the volume of work he has done, how much output he has produced, how much is the average farm output. That is the part nobody wants to look at and nobody sees. They see the earnings, however. I would even say that a kind of unfavorable psychological atmosphere begins to be created. They are looked upon as people who want to wring things out, who want to make money. This is not right. Good public opinion, too, needs to be created around the work of the leasing and contracting collectives. [passage omitted]

I have to say that over the last few years, the use of the new economic mechanism and other factors has led to certain positive advances in the republic's agrarian sector. I will just quote one or two figures. In 1983, for example, in Russia, that is in the first year after the May plenum of the Central Committee, the per capita consumption of meat came to 64 kg. Last year, it increased to 69 kg. At the earlier date, 336 kg of milk was consumed, while last year it was 369 kg. What kind of comment can we make about these figures? There is an increase, but as you can see, it is not as great as we would like considering that during that time the population grew, the size of the urban population increased. The main thing, however, is that it is still far from the volumes determined by our medical norms of consumption. We are obliged to insure the supply of our population precisely in accordance with these norms. [passage omitted]

Scientific

Soviet-Afghan Space Crew Passes Final Test

LD1008203788 Moscow TASS in English 1936 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow August 10 TASS—By TASS correspondent Rena Kuznetsov:

A final complex test has been successfully passed today by the members of the first international Soviet-Afghan crew—pilot cosmonaut of the USSR Vladimir Lyakhov, physician Valeriy Polyakov, Afghan pilot Mohmand 'Abdullah Ahad. They came up to the trainer, put on the equipment and... "set off" for an orbital flight.

Everything happened as is to be in the forthcoming Soviet-Afghan expedition, which is scheduled to be launched on August 29. All the stages of the flight—from pre-start training to the touch down—were "played over" in front of a stringent examination commission. The test included the putting of the spaceship into orbit, and a check on hermetic tightness of all of its systems, initial rendezvous manoeuvre and link up. Only the experiments under the programme for the international flight were not rehearsed. That is a special subject. Then followed undocking and touch down.

The examination commission highly appraised the standards of knowledge of the crews and found that all of its members are prepared for the space flight. The second crew—pilot cosmonaut of the USSR Anatoly Berezovoy, medical man Gherman Arzamazov and Afghan pilot Muhammed Dauran Ghulam Ma'sum—will have to take that test tomorrow.

Levchenko Death Caused by Brain Tumor

LD1008162888 Moscow TASS in English 1606 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow August 10 TASS—Anatoliy Levchenko could have done much more had death not snatched him from the ranks of space explorers before his time—he was just 47.

The Soviet cosmonaut was a courageous person and skilled test pilot. Upon the completion of the orbital flight on board the Soyuz TM-4 spacecraft and the Mir station in December last year, he piloted a jet liner, showing confidence and brilliant performance.

Levchenko was born on May 21, 1941 in the town of Krasnokutsk, Kharkov region, the Ukraine. He entered the Chernigov Higher Air School in 1959. He then served in the Air Force.

Levchenko graduated from a test pilot school in 1971 and tested new planes and aircraft technology until his death.

He piloted 80 types of planes and their modifications, earning the honorary title of "Merited Test Pilot of the USSR."

He joined a detachment of test cosmonauts in 1981, and was awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union and "Pilot Cosmonaut of the USSR" for participation in a successful space mission.

Lately, he took part in the testing of space technology and could have become a member of a crew of a future Soviet reusable spacecraft.

The cosmonaut is survived by wife Lyudmila who works in the same establishment as her late husband, and by son Kirill, 14.

Levchenko died on August 6 of a grave illness caused by a brain tumour that was hard to localise, a TASS correspondent learned at the Health Ministry of the USSR.

He was operated on at the Academician Nikolay Burdenko Research Institute for Neurosurgery. Physicians did their best to save the patient's life.

Doctors in no way link the cosmonaut's death with his brief space mission.

Designer Describes 'Energiya' Rocket System

PM1008131788 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 30 Jul 88 Second Edition p 4

[Article by G. Gubanov, chief designer of the "Energiya" rocket system: "'Energiya' Airborne!"]

[Text] The launch of the new "Energiya" Soviet heavylift launcher has aroused enormous interest among specialists and the general public. This is understandable—with the creation of such a rocket we are opening up unique opportunities for expanding space research.

I should probably start by explaining that we are talking about a new general-purpose rocket system. It will make it possible to place in low-earth orbit a payload of more than 100 metric tons, both in the form of a shuttle—which is currently being actively prepared for its first launch—and in the form of large autonomous spacecraft.

For the third stage special rocket boosters with their own control system can be used to carry the payload. On this basis tasks can be resolved linked with placing spacecraft in geostationary orbit [GEO] or on trajectories to the moon and the planets. Spacecraft weighing around 18 metric tons can be placed in GEO, while craft of around 32 metric tons can be placed on lunar trajectories, and up to 28-metric ton payloads can be placed on Martian and Venusian trajectories.

This flexibility is an important feature of "Energiya," since it is a launcher rather than a booster-equipped orbiter.

The "Energiya" launcher comprises a two-stage "package" of four longitudinal first-stage boosters around a central second-stage core and an asymmetrical payload position. Launcher lift-off weight can be up to 2,400 metric tons. Each first-stage booster is fitted with a four-chamber liquid-propellant rocket motor burning liquid oxygen and hydrocarbon fuel. First-stage motor thrust is 740 metric tons at the earth's surface and 806 metric tons in a vacuum. The second-stage burns oxygen-hydrogen fuels and has four single-chamber liquid-propellant rocket motors each with a thrust of 148 metric tons at the earth's surface and 200 metric tons in a vacuum.

First- and second-stage motors are fired almost simultaneously just before lift-off. Total lift-off thrust is around 3,600 metric tons. The method adopted makes it possible to avoid the problem of firing motors in weightlessness, and additionally enhances reliability.

Upon fuel depletion the first-stage boosters separate in pairs from the rocket, then split up and land in the designated area. They can be fitted with reentry and landing equipment housed in special compartments. They can be reused following diagnostic, preventive-maintenance, repair, and restoration work.

The central core—the second stage—separates after suborbital velocity is reached and lands in a designated area of the Pacific. This procedure was selected in order to prevent near-earth space becoming littered with large discarded launcher fragments. The boost to orbital velocity is supplied by motors on the payload, the orbiter, or the booster unit. In other words, they act as a third stage.

The modular assembly of the rocket, its transportation on a special transporter from the vehicle-assembly and test building to the launchpad, and the provision of power, pneumatic, hydraulic, and electrical connections with the launcher are conducted using a mobile launcher-mating unit, which remains at the launch complex after launch and is reusable.

Another fundamental feature of the "Energiya" launcher is its construction on the basis of the second-stage unit and standardized first-stage modules. This makes the

system flexible and allows for the subsequent development of a number of promising heavylift and medium-lift boosters with varying payload capacities depending on their number of modules.

The road to flight testing of the new launcher was paved with many complex scientific, engineering, and organizational problems. The efforts of hundreds of design bureaus, plants, research centers, and construction, installation, and operations enterprises were pooled in the development of "Energiya." Dozens of ministries and departments, the USSR Academy of Sciences, and union republic academies made their contribution to this work.

The powerful rocket required the use of high-energy fuels, including liquid oxygen cooled to minus 186 degrees celsius as the oxidizer and liquid hydrogen cooled to minus 255 degrees as the fuel for the second stage. Special structural materials working at cryogenic temperatures and with considerable strength were developed and used in the manufacture of the tanks, supply lines, and some of the hydraulics. A number of new types of high-strength steel and aluminum and titanium alloys were introduced. New thermal-protection and thermal-insulation coatings were developed. In all, new materials make up more than 70 percent of the "Energiya" launcher's unfueled weight.

The technology has been assimilated for the manufacture of large "wafer" structures for the tank shells and for the assembly of large-diameter units using electron-beam and pulse welding on an industrial scale. Wafer-type shells are currently used quite extensively in rocket equipment.

The problem of transporting tanks and central core compartments 8 meters in diameter and weighing more than 40 metric tons from the manufacturer to the point of assembly has been solved. A specially modified heavy aircraft is used, which has made possible the world's first-ever regular operations in transporting structures of enormous dimensions—the diameter of the cargo is almost 2 and ½ times greater than the aircraft cross section.

One of the most complex and fundamental problems was the development of reliable and powerful sustainer motors for both the first and second stages. A great deal of attention is traditionally devoted in the Soviet Union to the development and improvement of liquid-propellant rocket motors. The RD-170 motors, which are standard for new-generation launcher first stages, including "Energiya," were built in the most economical and compact layout—in which the gas used in the turbine is ignited in the main combustion chamber—and have produced a record performance in their class in terms of thrust and specific pulse. They are equipped with high-power turbopump units (more than 250,000 horsepower).

The development of reusable high-thrust sustainer motors using high-energy fuel components for the "Energiya" booster's second stage was a considerable achievement for Soviet rocket construction. The designers managed to ensure high performance characteristics with minimal gas-dynamic losses, regenerative cooling, and durability of the materials used in a liquid hydrogen environment.

For directional control in the boost phase the sustainer motors are equipped with a precision electrohydraulic steering system (with an accuracy of up to 1 percent of the range of movement). They develop a force of up to 50 metric tons in each rolling plane of the first-stage sustainer motors, and more than 30 metric tons in the rocket's second stage.

Wide-ranging and multifaceted problems were solved by setting up an autonomous on-board rocket control system based on a multi-unit computer complex. Pride of place was given to the development of software and control programs both for standard flight conditions and for cases of individual systems failures. More than 500 emergency situations were analyzed and algorithms found to compensate for them. These questions were researched on experimental installations, and also during testbed firings.

In general the closest attention was paid to ensuring "Energiya's" reliability and survivability. The provision of backup systems was stipulated for the main vitally important systems and units, including the sustainer motors, steering instruments, turbogenerator power sources, and pyrotechnics. The autonomous guidance complex also has inbuilt component and circuit redundancy. The special emergency protection devices which diagnose the condition of both stages' sustainer motors and trigger an immediate cutout when a failed unit starts malfunctioning are a new feature of the rocket. In addition, the rocket is fitted with efficient fire or explosion warning systems.

The measures that have been taken minimize the likelihood of a dangerous breakdown during launch. So if an abnormal situation arises, the rocket can continue controlled flight even with a first- or second-stage sustainer motor shutdown—which, incidentally, is impossible using solid-fuel boosters such as on the "space shuttle" system. In abnormal situations during the launch of a manned orbiter the constructive measures built into the rocket make it possible either to place the craft on a low "single-orbit" flight path following the orbit of satellites and subsequently landing at an airfield, or to carry out a maneuver to return to the boost phase, landing the craft on a strip located near the launch complex.

It is well known that it is impossible to create a complex technical system that will work absolutely perfectly. That is why, if the launcher fails during the launch of an unmanned payload and it proves impossible to place the

spacecraft in orbit, the rocket is guided into special zones along the flight path where the possible damage will be minimal—but the likelihood of such situations is fairly low.

Thus, by the time of the first launch of "Energiya" a large program of research, development, and experimental work had been completed. In all, more than 200 experimental installations, 34 large structural assemblies, and 5 full-size items were created for this purpose, and the total number of tests carried out exceeded 6,500. Moreover, the modular part of the first-stage unit was successfully flight-tested in the launch of a new medium-lift launcher. The main aim designated before its first test flight was to obtain experimental data on the serviceability of the design of the rocket itself, its propulsion systems, other on-board systems, and full-scale launch conditions—that is, data which could not be obtained during static tests were received in full. The correctness of the plan and design solutions and the strategy and scale of ground development were confirmed. The operation of all on-board systems was shown to be highly accurate.

The final phase of the launcher's work, in which it was necessary to ensure the conditions for separation of the payload—in this instance, a dummy spacecraft—also went smoothly. Unfortunately, a faulty circuit in one of the on-board instruments in the dummy spacecraft prevented it from reaching the planned velocity and entering orbit after separation.

Positive results from the first test of this class of system—a test which was the result of a range of purposeful scientific research, planning, and engineering work—could not be mere chance; only a malfunction could be chance. The specialists are well aware of that. On the contrary, failures at the start of flight testing would not have made it possible to claim that the system was viable—there would still have been room for doubts about whether there were any fundamental shortcomings.

Random breakdowns in such complex technical systems may occur mainly because of unexpected and undetected defects during assembly and operation. In this connection all further development currently boils down to stabilizing manufacturing techniques and improving quality-control methods and their completeness.

The "Energiya" launcher is a component of a rocket system which includes—apart from the rocket itself and the payload—a ground complex unique in its scale, capabilities, and level of technical equipment, which provides training and carries out the launches. Its distinguishing feature—also inherent in the rocket itself—is its high level of automation. The launch center computer complex, which controls many units and mechanisms taking part in launch preparations, cooperates with the on-board part of the guidance system, which in turn controls the state of all launcher systems.

A multipurpose launcher testbed was designed and commissioned as part of the ground complex in order to test under ground conditions the first- and second-stage units and the "package" as a whole, firing each stage's sustainer motors for virtually their full burn time. This large-scale installation (the plume deflector shield, for instance, is located more than 40 meters below ground level, and the lightning conductors standing alongside the launchpad rise to 225 meters) equipped with a large amount of necessary technical and technological systems can also be used as a launch complex. It was from here that the first "Energiya" launch took place.

The specially developed cryogenic systems for fueling the launcher with cooled hydrogen and oxygen employ new engineering principles. All fueling processes are automated and based on modern computer equipment.

We are at the start of the flight-test stage of a complex rocket system. What problems will still have to be solved? The most immediate problems are linked with making the design reusable. The desire to reuse such a unique rocket is quite natural and understandable. At the present stage the system is undoubtedly expensive. The main stimulus for further improving and developing new launchers is the need to reduce the cost of placing a unit mass of payload in orbit (the so-called unit launch cost). This value characterizes the sophistication of the launcher. Analysis shows that in the future expendable space transportation systems will lack the prerequisites for markedly reducing unit launch cost. A radical solution to the problem of reusable launch vehicles lies with the appearance of a new class of transportation system—spaceplane systems. But here a great deal depends on materials technology—new superlight and durable structural materials are needed.

The main task of the day is to land an orbiter—and in the future, individual units and stages—automatically without using pilots. Currently automated flight from takeoff to landing is possible in aircraft systems, such as the TU-204 medium-haul airliner, for instance. The problem is an urgent one.

The role of manned missions on launchers of this class is not yet fully clear—that is the opinion of many specialists. It would be inappropriate to blindly copy aviation in this area—space technology has developed in its own way. Initially automatic craft were launched into space, and it was only later that man followed them. In the future space will mainly be a field for automatic spacecraft and transportation systems. Clearly, man's role will be linked with research and specific work on servicing and repairing systems.

Diagnosis of the condition of structures is a fundamental problem linked with reusability. The current standard of diagnostic methods does not yet make it possible to forewarn of a possible accident caused by hidden defects that arise in the process of operation. A reliable and

accurate assessment of service life on the basis of controls using objective and nondestructive methods is a task which we will have to learn to resolve.

There are longer-term problems involved with working out avenues for creating standardized modules and units for future superheavylift launchers based on "Energiya" in order to use near-earth space in the interests of the national economy, to organize industrial production in space, to research the moon, Mars, and other planets, and to eventually organize an international expedition to Mars. There are many problems, but it can already be claimed today that the Soviet Union has laid the foundations for their resolution.

Military

Problems of Returning Soldiers Viewed

LD1008112588 [Editorial Report] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 0330 GMT on 10 August broadcasts the latest installment of the feature program "Signal," devoted to a report by correspondent Svelana Bogatyreva entitled "Our Civic Duty," which deals with the difficulties experienced by Soviet servicemen returning from Afghanistan. Bogatyreva asserts that it is journalists and representatives of public organizations who are drawing attention to the problem "because, as a rule, the former soldiers themselves do not bother us with their requests or reminders about their unimplemented rights and privileges. Meanwhile, many organizations that are not fulfilling the government decisions should be given trouble, as should our social conscience. It is all of us, alongside whom they live and work, who ought to make certain they do not need to bring up any of these questions. They should be settled right away and in the proper manner. It is up to all of us, more even than to them, because otherwise we cannot respect ourselves."

The problems faced by returning servicemen include not just housing and help for the disabled, but also help for the relatives of those who died. Bogatyreva presents some interviews. The first was recorded at the Moscow Friendship Park temporary memorial to the Afghan war dead. Two veterans complain about the indifference of the Moscow Soviet and the Ministry of Defense toward a memorial; no official body has contributed anything to it.

A second recording was made at Moscow's Kazanskiy Station, where veterans take turns meeting returnees. A returning soldier has spent 3 days en route. He had to sleep in railroad stations because no hotel accommodation was arranged for him. He has been met in Moscow by other veterans and is to travel on to Volgograd. One of the welcoming party thanks the hundreds of Muscovites who responded to appeals to put returnees up for a few days. Another member of the welcoming party says that things are not so good in Tashkent, the men are arriving with no money, so money is being collected to send to them. He thinks that a proper reception should be organized and that the city itself should do something to help the soldiers.

Back in the studio, Bogatyreva talks to two veterans from Severobaykalsk who returned in 1986. One of them says that the worst thing in Afghanistan was to lose one's friends, but on returning, it is the problems with housing and so on. "You could call it another battlefront, the bureaucratic one," he says. The second veteran, a railwayman, says his boss rescinded the order allocating him a flat without consulting the work force. He is worried about other veterans with families who are having to live for years in temporary housing. The first veteran: "The general picture that emerges is that it is not just in one organization, but all over the town that they pay no attention to the returnees, even though certain privileges have been decreed by the Council of Ministers. Here in the center, at any rate, you can still get justice somehow, but there, Moscow is far away and you have to look after yourself."

Bogatyreva describes the veterans' documents, which entitle them to privileges as decreed by the government in 1983. "You would think that nothing would be simpler: A soldier would return to his local military commission and right away they would acquaint him with the government document that provides for priority allocation of housing, job placement, and a multitude of other rights closely tied to a soldier's work and everyday life as a civilian.

"As it happens, an all-union rally of internationalist servicemen currently is taking place in Novorossiysk. These are among the problems to be discussed there. We hope they will not be simply discussed because it is time to demand their speedy solution in every responsible organization, in every village, oblast, and city."

Housing, Pension Difficulties

LD0908213088 [Editorial Report] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1800 GMT on 9 August carries a 4-minute report by Tatyana Chemodanova from the Moscow City Military Reserve Soviet on the social problems encountered by soldiers returning from Afghanistan.

Beginning her report, Chemodanova says: "Our boys are continuing to return from Afghanistan. Some of them still have to complete their military service, while others are exchanging their military uniforms for civilians clothes. It is well known that they are encountering serious problems returning to everyday life."

Chemodanova first speaks to Aleksandr Meshayev, a member of the Moscow City Military Reserve Soviet, who says:

"There are lots of problems. The boys arrive in Tashkent having just crossed the border, and right away there are problems. There is virtually no one there to meet them. There are big problems with tickets. There are problems with places to stay. There are all kind of ticket speculators trying to make money out of these boys who have just come back."

Andrey Logunov, chairman of the soviet, tells Chemodanova that while the demobilized troops are entitled to privileges, these are not always recognized by such bodies as the executive committees of local soviets. Logunov says: "They say that they do not consider the internationalist fighters priority cases, although some of them are invalids and some of them really do need living quarters. It is very difficult for, let's say, four people to live in 15 square meters, when you have young children."

Meshayev cites as an example a man who lived for 2 years with his wife and two children in a 13-square-meter room and whose requests for better accommodation had been rejected by the executive committee. "That is how our government's decision on privileges is being fulfilled," he added. "This is not an isolated case. There are very many cases like this. The people who are not implementing the decision on privileges should be called to account," Meshayev said.

Chemodanova asks the two what problems the men who came back from the war as invalids encountered. Logunov spoke of the problem of finding them jobs and reassessing their employment potential. Meshayev added: "I think that a review of invalids pensions is long overdue because these are mainly young men of 18 or 20, and they are receiving a pension of 40-45 rubles. Can anyone live on that amount of money now? Moreover, these young men are not at the end of their lives. Their whole lives are ahead of them, and they want to have families. They have to live somehow, and I don't know how they can exist on that amount of money. I think it is time to review the provision on calculating the invalids pension, at least for those youths who have become invalids in Afghanistan."